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The Hilltop 10-28-2008

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Established
1924

THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 92, NO.46

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Tuesday, October 28, 2008

Tuesday's Notebook

CAMPUS

BEING THE PRESIDENT OF AN ADVERTISING ORGANIZATION IS JUST ONE OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THIS HOWARD STUDENT. FIND OUT HOW SHE BALANCES HER TIME.

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ELECTION ISSUE

BEFORE HEADING TO THE POLLS, MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHAT THE CANDIDATES STAND FOR. FLIP TO THE ELECTION SECTION AND REFRESH YOUR MEMORY.

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BIZ & TECH

MAKING PARENTHOOD AND STUDENT LIFE WORK REQUIRES SACRIFICES SOCIALLY AND FINANCIALLY, SAY A FEW YOUNG MOTHERS.

PAGE 10

Hudson's Tragedy Worsens As Nephew's Body Found

BY OMARI EVANS
Staff Writer

Until Friday's tragic events, Jennifer Hudson's life had been both a fairy tale and a classic Chicago story.

Kids dream about a rise like hers - from a South Side girl in the rough Englewood neighborhood to the widely embraced sixth runner-up on "American Idol" to the out-of-nowhere Oscar winner for her role in "Dreamgirls." As icing on this cake, she's now a best-selling recording artist.

Since "Dreamgirls," Hudson has taken supporting roles in the movies "Sex and the City," "Winged Creature" and the recently released "The Secret Life of Bees." Fellow South Sider Senator Barack Obama tapped her to sing

the national anthem at the Democratic National Convention at Denver's Invesco Field on the August night he accepted his party's presidential nomination.

Yet she has remained a Chicagoan throughout, visiting her family often and maintaining close ties with her church and city. Just last weekend she was back in the city to be honored at the Chicago International Film Festival.

She returned again this weekend to identify the bodies of her mother, Darnell Donerson, 57, and brother, Jason, 29, both shot to death in Donerson's Englewood home. A suspect was in custody while Hudson's 7-year-old nephew, Julian King, remained missing late Saturday.

Julian King was later found dead yesterday afternoon in a sports utility

vehicle. Hudson helped to identify the body.

On Hudson's Myspace page, www.myspace.com/jenniferhudson, fans have been flooding her wall with condolence messages. She put a note up and a default picture in remembrance of Julian King.

Such crimes are life-shatterers to those who are connected, regardless of whether the victims or their relatives are famous. But with Hudson having lived out the fantasies of so many people inside and outside Chicago — all without losing widespread affection and respect — her tragedy has become a shared nightmare.

"I'm not upset about it," said

> See **TRAGEDY**, Page 3



Kuni Takahashi - The Chicago Tribune (MCT)

Jennifer Hudson's mother, left, and brother were found dead in Chicago on Friday.

Palin's Bit on 'SNL' Earns Highest Ratings In Over a Decade

BY CHELSEA TAYLOR
Contributing Writer

"Saturday Night Live" received its highest rating in 14 years as Gov. Sarah Palin made a guest appearance on the show Oct. 18. With election season nearing an end, the late-night comedy show is taking politics to another level.

According to Tiffany Barnes, a political scientist who has worked for both CNN and the NBC network, SNL's ratings have been on the upswing ever since the introduction of both presidential candidates' running mates and has made a surge since the first presidential debate.

"The numbers are unprecedented, yet not completely shocking," she said. "Many people are very much into this election and have really strong opinions about their candidates."

Barnes said the show allows voters the "opportunity to breathe a sigh of relief when their candidate makes a goof."

Week after week, the actors have characterized candidates of the presidential election. Although this is not the first election in which SNL has characterized presidential candidates, this time seems different. While jokes about President



Nicolas Khayat - Abaca Press (KRT)

Tina Fey has played Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin to a tee since Palin joined the Republican ticket.



Karl Mondon - Contra Costa Times (MCT)

Bush and other members of the current administration have lightened hearts just a little over the past eight years, the impersonations of the candidates this time around are uncanny.

After the announcement of Palin as John McCain's running mate, Tina Fey, the first-ever female writer for SNL, struck gold with her portrayal of the Republican vice presidential nominee. Palin has been mocked for everything, from her interview with Katie Couric to her debate with Joe Biden.

Some students feel as though Fey has single-handedly turned Palin into the laughingstock of the country.

"I don't like Sarah Palin at all, so I don't care if she embarrasses herself and her ticket," said Shermeeka Lockhart, a freshman political science major. "She needs to be somewhere discussing serious topics. They are blatantly making fun of her and, worst of all, they're using her direct quotes."

Kenzie Lawson, a senior English major and avid McCain supporter, was disappointed in Sarah Palin's decision to appear on the show.

"Just when the media was beginning to give Palin a chance, she goes out and makes a fool of herself," Lawson said.

"If she wants to make a television appearance, how about she answer some questions to help Senator McCain? The Tina Fey segments are getting old. Palin is now a joke."

With the Nov. 4 elections steadily approaching, Fey has been quoted saying she would like to finish playing the part of Sarah Palin on Election Day.

"I wish she would just step down," Lawson said. "We had a perfectly capable candidate before she was nominated and after her appearance on SNL, and particularly the 'Weekend Update' segment, I don't want her anywhere near the White House."

Meghan Jones, a sophomore finance major, insists however, that the episodes are all in good fun.

"At this point in the election, we've already decided who we're going to vote for and a few episodes of 'Saturday Night Live' will in no way sway undecided voters," she said.

Barnes agreed and said, "People rarely base their opinions off of late-night television. It is entertaining, but it will not affect the presidential race. If anything, it will make the remaining week that much more bearable."

Diabetes Walk Goes On Despite Weather

BY TAYLOR SMITH
Contributing Writer

Gray skies, strong wind and fall showers couldn't slow down walkers for the "Step Out to Fight Diabetes" fundraiser walk, held by the American Diabetes Association on Oct. 27.

Like many walkers, Honora Burnett has been personally affected by the disease.

"My sister and close friend... both suffer from diabetes," Burnett said.

She began participating in the walk two years ago.

"I felt that it was something that I could do for my sister," Burnett said. "I've watched her suffer from diabetes since she was 18 and there was nothing I could do for her. That is hard for an older sister."

Burnett created her own team of people to walk with, including her sister and her friend Lourdes.

"Those who didn't walk help by donating to our team; co-workers also help," she said. "Once you start asking, people are extremely generous."

She and her team fundraised over \$1,500. Though the weather was gloomy, she said, the walk's supporters made the atmosphere more than enjoyable.

Burnett said, "Though you're in teams, the event felt like a family atmosphere. Everyone is working together, supporting one another through the walk."

"The weather didn't even faze anyone," she said. She and her sister plan to participate in future walks.

"Step Out to Fight Diabetes" began in 1991 and was formerly known as Walktoberfest. This year, more than 3,500 supporters came out, according to the ADA

office in D.C.

More than a walk, this event was had a "block party" atmosphere with a band, refreshments, plenty of encouragement and tents that provided information about diabetes and the fight against it.

The walk will be held in more than 200 cities this fall.

The routes, which range from two to six miles, are accessible to people of all ages and levels of mobility.

All the funds raised from the walk are used to prevent and cure diabetes. The funds are also used to improve the lives of people affected by the disease.

Both individuals and teams, including families, friends and corporations, walk and raise money in support of the ADA.

Each participant is asked to make a donation, but one can sponsor an individual or a team.

The sponsors of the walk include Rite-Aid, Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, Kmart Pharmacies and Dignity Memorial.

Kmart Pharmacies has supported the walk for the past two years and has raised more than \$1.5 million through its in-store pin-up campaign.

Kmart sells pin-ups at its pharmacies to combat the increasing rate of diabetes; consumers can donate \$1, \$5, or \$10.

Last year, Wal-Mart contributed over 1 million dollars to the cause.

Rite-Aid gives a 10 percent discount off an item for anyone who participates in the walk or sponsors a walker.

According to the ADA, diabetes affects over 23 million children and adults in the United States and more than 3,500 supporters came out, according to the ADA

> See **DIABETES**, Page 3

Health Panel Says Breast Cancer a Killer for Black Men, Women

BY JESSICA LEWIS
Staff Writer

Have you felt your breast lately? How about letting a friend feel it for you? These questions are simple precautionary steps that can determine one's success in fighting breast cancer.

Preventative measures and little-known facts were discussed last night at a panel event sponsored by the College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health

Sciences (CPNAS) and the National Council of Negro Women.

"The earlier you detect the cancer, the more likely you are to find a cure to beat it," said Johnetta Abraham, a junior political science major.

Breast cancer is about 100 times less common among men than among women. For men, the lifetime risk of getting breast cancer is about one-tenth of 1 percent (1 in 1,000), according to the American Cancer Society.

In 2008, about 450 men will die from breast cancer in the United States. The society estimates that in 2008, about 1,990 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed among men in the United States.

"If your nipples are flaky, if there's a lot of tingling, a lot of itching and burning or pain, you might want to get checked out," Abraham said.

According to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation, some eth-

nic and racial groups have been less likely to receive breast cancer screenings, which leads to a breast cancer diagnosis in the later stages. This later diagnosis increases the chance of dying from breast cancer.

The foundation found that African-American women are less likely than white women to survive five years after being diagnosed with breast cancer.

The five-year survival rate for African-American women is 77 percent, compared to 90 percent for white wom-

en. The statistics also show that white women are more likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer, but less likely to die from it.

The foundation cites breast cancer as "the most common cancer among African-American women and the second leading cause of cancer death among African-American women, exceeded only by lung cancer."

Student Grievances

A deeper look for those who may be unsure how to file a grievance

BY TAHIRAH HAIRSTON
Staff Writer

For Howard University students, issues on campus seem to occur on a daily basis. But some students may not know the steps they must take to get their issue solved.

The most effective way to let the problem be heard is to file a grievance with Undergraduate Student Assembly (UGSA) or Howard University Student Association (HUSA).

Sophomore fashion merchandising major Aryn Davis was unaware of the policy behind filing a grievance.

"I didn't know that filing a grievance was an option," she said. "I feel like it is only for extreme cases."

A grievance is a complaint about a specific problem students may have on campus. Grievances are located in the UGSA and HUSA offices and can be filed through a drop box located in the UGSA office or by e-mailing grievanceugsa@gmail.com.

There are two categories for grievances which can be filed with the Grievance Director and the Student Advocacy Chair, respectively. Patrick Scott, UGSA grievance director and General Assembly student advocacy chair, explained that the grievance director is more for personal changes or problems while the student advocacy chair is for changes that affect everybody.

"If you have a grade change and it didn't go through, that's when you talk to the grievance director," Scott said. However, "If you don't like the way the shuttles are running and you want a different schedule, that should be filed with student advocacy."

According to Scott, HUSA has a grievance box as well.

"Students file the simple issues with HUSA when they are preferred and really should be filed with the grievance director," Scott said.

However, some students do not automatically turn to grievances as the first means of finding a solution.

"Filing a grievance would not be my first thought," Davis said. "I would probably go to different offices and seek the council of my superior and if they recommended me to file a grievance, then I would [go]."

Scott noted that, under certain circumstances, students can also file grievances against other students as well as against administrators.

"A lot of students whine and complain but no one files a grievance and makes a change," Scott said. "Once you fill out the grievance, then I can help with the problem and I can be held accountable."

Students also may turn to the student councils in their respective schools and colleges if they want to file a grievance.

For students who have complaints, the College of Arts and Sciences Student Council (ASSC) will be hosting a "Grievance Day" in the Punchout on Wednesday from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

ASSC members will be available to accept grievances from students at the event.

Alum Works to Correct Title Of Former School of 'B' Dean

BY TAHIRAH HAIRSTON
Staff Writer

In the Howard University School of Business, there are pictures of three Deans on the wall — one of them being Emeritus Dean Milton Wilson.

Milton Wilson was the pioneer in getting the School of Business accredited and served as the founding dean for 20 years, retiring in 1990.

When the picture of Wilson was first placed, it had the incorrect title of Ph.D., which was changed to DBA (doctorate of business administration).

Alumnus Timothy Jones worked on getting this changed in 2006. However, according to Jones, Wilson's is still incorrect and he is currently working to get it changed once again.

"Dean Milton Wilson does not have a DBA but a DCS (doctorate of commer-

cial science)," Jones said.

Jones first noticed the incorrect title in an article title, "Dean Milton Wilson Retires" in the *Washington News Observer* on July 14, 1990.

"He was the dean when I was here, I grew to respect him as a student," Jones said. "He allowed me to conduct certain commercial activities within the School of Business."

Dean Sirgue, assistant dean of administration, said, "If we get the correct information, we will change it."

He continued, "Subsequent to that, he has informed us that the Ph.D. title was incorrect and we corrected the changes but we need direct information from the institution [Indiana University]."

Wilson graduated from Indiana University in 1951.

According to an e-mail to Jones from Janice Headley, Indiana University Kelley

School of Business senior associate director of alumni programs, "We had incorrectly shown him in our central alumni system as earning a DBA until discussions after his death brought this to light."

Wilson died on Sept. 2, 2003.

She continued in the e-mail, "The Kelley School did not offer a DBA degree until 1954 and Dr. Wilson earned his doctoral degree in 1951."

According to Sirgue, "Actually there was no picture in the lobby at first and we decided to get the picture and put it up there because we thought it should be recognized."

He said that in the School of Business, there is also a picture former President H. Patrick Swygert. There is a picture of President Swygert and we also requested that there be a picture of the President Ribeaup.

A Day in the Life...

President defeats obstacles, strives to maintain community involvement, organizational recognition

BY CHRIS CARAWAY
Contributing Writer

Bringing forth new ideas, maintaining great ambitions and setting goals has made Kamirria Harris the person she is today at Howard University. Kamirria is a senior advertising major from Chicago, Ill. by way of Atlanta, Ga.

As president of Howard's chapter of the America Advertising Foundation (AAF), the organization for advertising majors in the School of Communications, Kamirria plans on making advertising majors known.

"We are in the process of making our presence known on campus and rebranding our image to truly show the students the benefits of being a part of AAF," Harris said.

She continued, "AAF acts as a supplement to the advertising curriculum here at Howard University and by bringing professionals to the students we try to prepare them for when they do enter the communications industry."

Preparing for a career in advertising, Harris got the chance to intern for one of the best advertising firms in the country.

"I had a wonderful opportunity to work this past summer with Ogilvy & Mather, one of the largest marketing communications in the country," she said.

Harris has been noticed by professors for her work inside and outside the class room.

Yanick Rice Lamb, an associate print/online journalism professor, describes Harris as "diligent and focused, open to new experiences, based on what I have seen from her in the classroom and AAF."

Chazzen Pettiford, a sophomore advertising major and treasurer of AAF, said, "Kamirria is very organized — just an all-around kind and friendly person and definitely dedicated as president of AAF."

Besides serving as president of the AAF, Kamirria works in Cramton Auditorium and is involved in other organizations as well.

"I've known Kamirria since freshman year," said Jazzmyne Townsend, a senior marketing major who works in Cramton Auditorium with Harris.

"Kamirria is a very hard worker," Townsend said. "She is dedicated, persistent and she knows how to conduct herself in a professional manner. Overall, she is a committed student and friend who knows how to accomplish a stable work and life balance."

The motivation from Harris's family has pushed her to excel and pursue in all that she does.

"My mother passed away when I was 17 years old from a brain aneurism," she said. "So the challenge itself was having the motivation to go on without

with life. But with the help of my family, friends and God, I was able to prevail, despite my circumstances," she said.

Currently, Harris is a Girl Scout troop leader and would like to aid teenage girls in low-income families and give back to the community in the

"I will call it 'Lynda's Rose,' in the memory of my mother and grandmother," she said.

Coming from a low-income neighborhood, she says she is able to relate to teen girls who are experiencing the same tribulations she faced in the past.

"Since I'm an only child, I love working with children," Harris said. "I've been a Girl Scout troop leader since my freshman year at Howard and it gives me an opportunity to be a motivation to girls who are in low-income neighborhoods and myself being a product of a low income neighborhood, I'm able to identify with the girls that I interact with."

Harris has come a long way in her life and said she looks forward to better things.

"I'm an optimist," she said. "I try to find the positivity in any situation."

"I'm an optimist. I try to find the positivity in any situation."

- Kamirria Harris, president of AAF

my mother.

"This was the time when I was applying for colleges and it was very difficult to go on

near future.

Harris hopes to open up a group home for teenage girls within the next five years.



Photo Courtesy of Kamirria Harris

Kamirria Harris is pictured with Tom Burnell, left, the founder of Burnell Communications, one of the nation's largest black-owned communications agencies. He is also the namesake of the Howard Chapter AAF.

Are you a contributing writer?

Need some help with your stories?

Come to today's Writing Workshop in the Hilltop Office at 7 p.m. to get some tips

Hudson Family Loses Three

continued from FRONT, TRAGEDY

sophomore education major Jasmine Pittman. "I just think it's very unfortunate. People don't think of celebrities as regular people. Situations like this is [act as] a reality check for some. It's really sad."

"For her to be riding so high and to be hit like this," said Felicia Fields, a singer and Hudson's close friend and mentor. "You just wonder what's in the minds of people to create such a travesty."

Fields, who bonded with Hudson while the two shared the stage in a local 2001 production of "Big River," said she spoke to her friend after news of the slayings broke, and the 27-year-old actress was reeling.

"She said, 'Felicia, it's sur-

real,'" Fields said from St. Louis, where she is reprising her Tony-nominated role in "The Color Purple."

"Shewas in shock. You can only imagine — not just your mother but also your brother."

Fields said Hudson also was very close with Julian, the son of her older sister, Julia.

In interviews with the *Chicago Tribune*, Hudson has portrayed her family and faith as the rock-solid foundation to her success. Jennifer was the baby in the household to Julia and Jason, her full siblings, plus three half-siblings.

Chicago Tribune reporters Jason George, Chris Jones, Greg Kot, Mary Owen and Gerry Smith contributed to this report.

Walkers Pick Fight Against Diabetes

continued from FRONT, DIABETES

about one in every 10 American adults has the disease. It is especially serious in the African-American community.

African Americans are almost twice as likely to be diagnosed with diabetes than non-Hispanic whites, according to the Office of Minority Health.

Blacks are also more likely to suffer complications from diabetes, such as end-stage renal disease and lower extremity am-

putations.

When someone has diabetes, their body does not produce or properly utilize insulin. Insulin is the hormone needed to convert sugar, starches and other nutrients into the energy necessary for daily activities.

Often, diabetes can and does lead to other health complications. These health complications can include cardiovascular problems, kidney failure, blindness and lower limb amputations.

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Meeting materials and refreshments will be provided.

TO REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE, CONTACT

Norkia Baker
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Cheryl Dukes
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cdukes@NMAnet.org

Check out www.thehilltoponline.com !

Gallaudet's Campus 'Opens Up' With New Facilities

BY NAJA KELLY
Contributing Writer

In 2004, Gallaudet University, an institution that caters to the deaf and hard of hearing, began a campaign that will change the campus environment forever.

In an effort to revamp the closed campus and the surrounding area, the university launched a multi-million dollar campaign that has manifested into its first green facility.

The \$32 million Sorenson Language and Communication Center is also the first building to be designed by a deaf architect solely to be used by the deaf community.

The building features lighting that assists the signing process, lecture halls with oversized projection screens, rounded corners and other visually centered aspects.

The campaign's focus is to make the surrounding area visible. Along Sixth St. NE near Florida Ave., Gallaudet plans

to construct storefronts, lounges, restaurants and other student-friendly places that would help immerse their once-secluded students into the surrounding community.

With the help of the students and faculty who are part of the Deaf Space Project, Gallaudet plans to renovate and update its campus.

The group plans to create more nearby housing opportunities for students and faculty; only 26 of 225 faculty members live near the campus, according to

a survey.

"This plan is a plan that needed to happen. Gallaudet and the community need to open up and with this project we hope to start this," said Matthew Goeb, vice president of Gallaudet's student government.

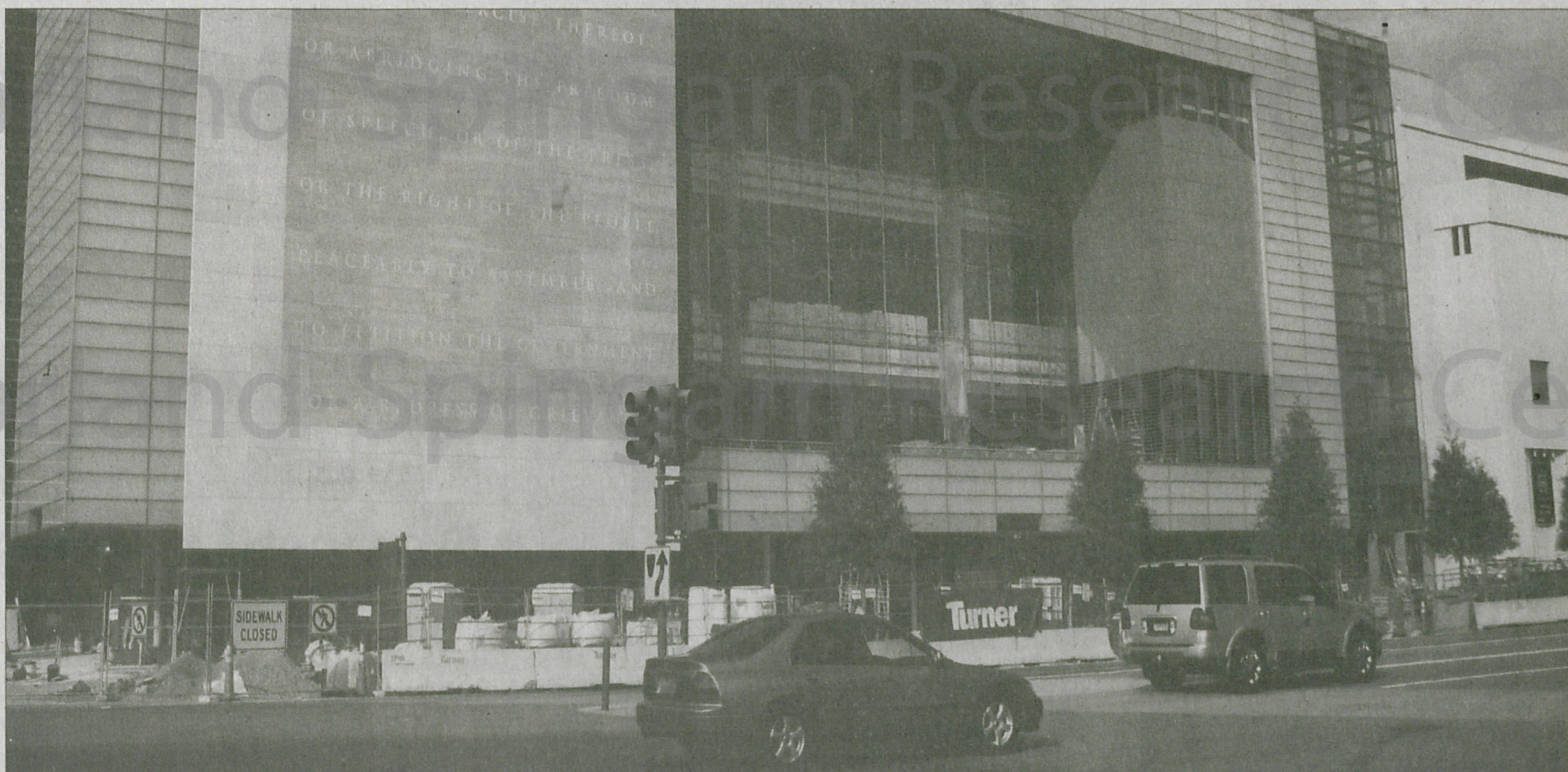
"Hundreds of students here support the university's stand on this."

The group also calls for agencies and establishments near the campus to have their staff know American Sign Language.

The newly constructed area will feature mirrors on walls for students to see behind themselves and ramped walkways that make signing easier than stairs do.

Plans have also been made to remove some of the iron fencing around the campus.

"The campus is closed and I believe it leads to misinterpretation," Goeb said. "With this project we may be able to change this."



Linda D. Epstein (MCT)

The Newseum opened in April 2008 and houses 15 theatres, 14 galleries, two broadcast studios and other opportunities to interact with the history of news media. This weekend, kids came to participate in the historic election.

Second Annual Newseum Family Day Focuses on Elections

Elementary school children choose Barack Obama as the next president of the United States at the news museum

BY BRITTANI MONCREASE
Contributing Writer

As Kevin Kallaugher began to mark on his easel, children crowded around him, anxiously ready to count.

Parents doubtfully stood in a row behind the children, secretly challenging Kallaugher's ability.

"I can draw Sen. John McCain in five lines. Count with me," said Kallaugher, the editorial cartoonist for *The Economic* magazine.

Kallaugher made a line straight across the paper. The crowd yelled, "One," in unison. He then made a big semi-circle along the straight line: "Two."

He drew two more little semi-circles, one on each side of the original

semi-circle. "Three, four," he continued.

The fifth line was a wave going through the middle of the big semi-circle.

"Done!" Kallaugher announced. "This is John McCain from the back. You never said it had to be from the front." The children were tricked but are still excited.

Their parents broke into laughter and hid their amusement.

As Kallaugher drew more cartoon characters, children yelled out the names of the political figures.

With astonished faces, nearby visitors were surprised the children could identify them.

Saturday, hundreds of families gazed through the exhibits at the Newse-

um, a 250,000-square-foot museum of news in downtown Washington, D.C., in celebration of the Second Annual Family Day. Those not yet old enough to officially vote for the U.S. president let their voices be heard - and 73 percent voted for Sen. Barack Obama.

Children were able to learn more about the presidential election and how voting works.

Just a few feet from the information desk was an arts-and-crafts activity table. At this table, families made their own hats, buttons and bumper stickers.

Some made political statements and others chose to acknowledge their favorite sport. A voter registration table was set up for eligible adults.

The children participated in a mock election in which they were able

to choose a presidential candidate.

Jada Graham of Maryland came to the Newseum with her father.

"I got to vote," Graham said excitedly. "I voted for Barack and I got to pick a hat."

Graham's father, Tony, was also interested in learning more about the elections, but from a news point of view.

"Given that we're on the eve of a very historical election, I want to see the political angles and all the different political news," he said.

Each Family Day has its own theme, highlighting a major ongoing current event. Senior education manager Barbara McCormack said, "We figure out what's going on and build on that."

Cassidy George, an eighth grade student from New Orleans, was on a class field trip in which the Newseum was among the last stops.

She was not aware that it was Family Day, but she was enjoying the activities.

"I saw an Abraham Lincoln going up the elevator," said George.

As she stood next to her friends, she noticed a monitor above paying tribute to different reporters and articles.

"It's cool. It's really cool. I'm just following this maze where there's enough to just keep us looking. I'm never bored," George said.

McCormack is unsure of when the next Family Day is, but she is sure there will be one in the winter and summer.

Southeast Welcomes Innovative Charter School

BY LAKENDRA SMITH
Contributing Writer

A unique public charter school, KIPP D.C., has opened a new location in Southeast D.C.

"We are so excited about the new location," said Casey Fullerton, KIPP's Key Academy vice-principal.

The school was built to provide students who come from low-income families with a quality education.

Attending KIPP is free and provides education for students in grades pre-Kindergarten through the 12th grade.

The school operates year-round. On weekdays and every other weekend, students arrive to school at 7:25 a.m. and leave at 5:00 p.m.

KIPP, America's Knowledge is Power Program, was temporarily located at 770 M St. SE. The school cut the ribbon to its new location at 4801 Benning Rd. SE on Sept. 16.

The new location has a full cafeteria and gymnasium, two amenities the previous building did not have.

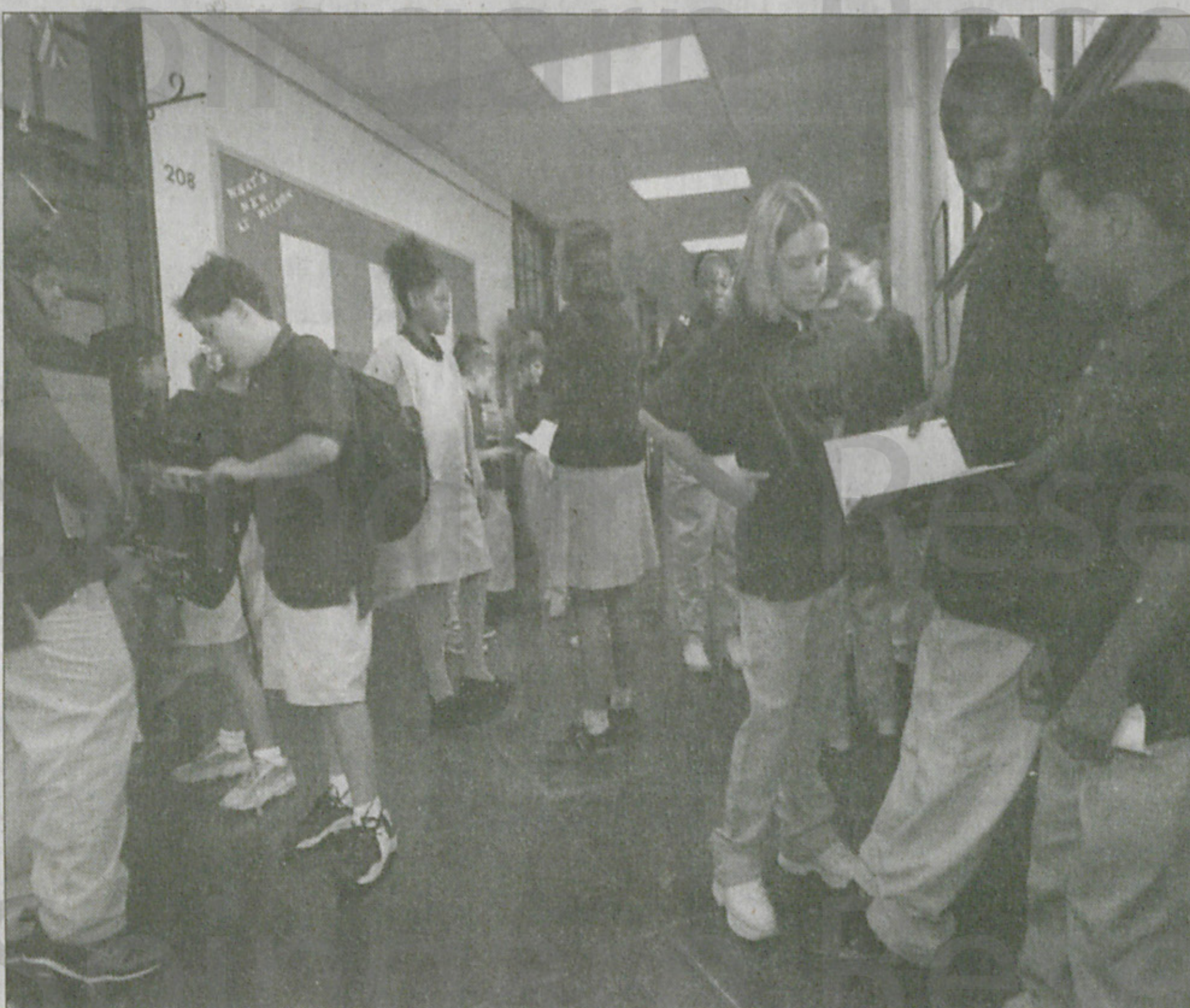
"I love the way the teachers work with the students, especially the little kids," said Valerie Jones, an office manager for the KIPP D.C. Key Academy and a parent of a child at the Leap Academy.

"For the most part, parents sign up for our schools for something different," Fullerton said.

According to KIPP's Web site, students usually enroll in the fifth grade and are at least one grade to several grade levels behind their peers in reading and math.

After four years at KIPP, all eighth-grade classes outperformed their district averages in both mathematics and reading/English language arts, based on state tests.

Chess, theatre and Shakespeare, drum, step, dance, debate, art and poetry are classes that KIPP offers to motivate students during the long day. Students also engage in these classes for the



Gerald S. Williams (MCT)

KIPP, the Knowledge is Power Program, gives students from low-income families a chance to succeed.

development of cultural education.

Tennis, basketball, volleyball and kickball are the recreational classes that KIPP provides to make use of the new gymnasium.

"I would say the biggest challenge is making sure that we are constantly finding the best teachers to put in front of the kids," Fullerton said.

Mrs. Cobelli is a seventh-grade social studies teacher who uses an uncommon technique to settle down a rowdy class - instead of telling her students to "Be quiet," she calmly utters, "Make the smarter choice."

"These kids are great," an enthused Cobelli

said.

The program serves over 16,000 students. Nationwide, over 90 percent of KIPP students are African American. All students in the KIPP school located in D.C. are African American.

Each grade attends a homeroom with a different university's name. For example, two of the classrooms are named after Rice University and Florida State University.

"What's really amazing is that everyone works as a team. Kids know we are all on the same page," said Julia Buegani, an eighth-grade social studies teacher at KIPP.

Metro Briefs

The 'Next' Big Thing

The Washington-based CityDance Ensemble officially launched their season on Oct. 18 with a spectacular set of performances crafted by some of today's top and up-and-coming contemporary dance choreographers. The show, titled "Next," was presented at The John F. Kennedy Center for one night only and included innovative works such as "Folksay" by Sophie Maslow and "War" by Austin McCormick.

Articulating Something New

The ARTICulate Gallery and Studio, which is located in downtown D.C., displays works of art created by participants of the Washington Very Special Arts organization. All featured artists are children and adults living in the Washington metropolitan area who have special needs. Many times, shows are focused on a particular seasonal or cultural topic and often last no longer than two months.

Exploring 'ID-entity' Ended

Saturday, Oct. 18 marked the ending of "ID-entity." The exhibit was composed of works created by ten budding artists, who are originally from Mexico City and was done in collaboration with the Mexican Cultural Institute. Featuring photography, video and painting, the exhibit analyzed topics surrounding identity on both an individual and universal level.

Compiled by Leah Kimble



OBAMA'S STAND ON



Education

- ★ The "Zero to Five" plan will provide early education for infants. Also, Obama wants to create Early Learning Challenge Grants. This will help states toward voluntary pre-school.
- ★ The American Opportunity Tax Credit will make higher education affordable for all Americans. According to Obama's campaign Web site, for most Americans, this plan will "ensure that the first \$4,000 of college education is completely free."
- ★ Reform the No Child left Behind Act will allow assessments to follow students' progress in order to prepare them for college and the workplace.
- ★ Obama's campaign also intends to decrease the school drop-out rate by implementing intervention strategies in middle schools.

Immigration

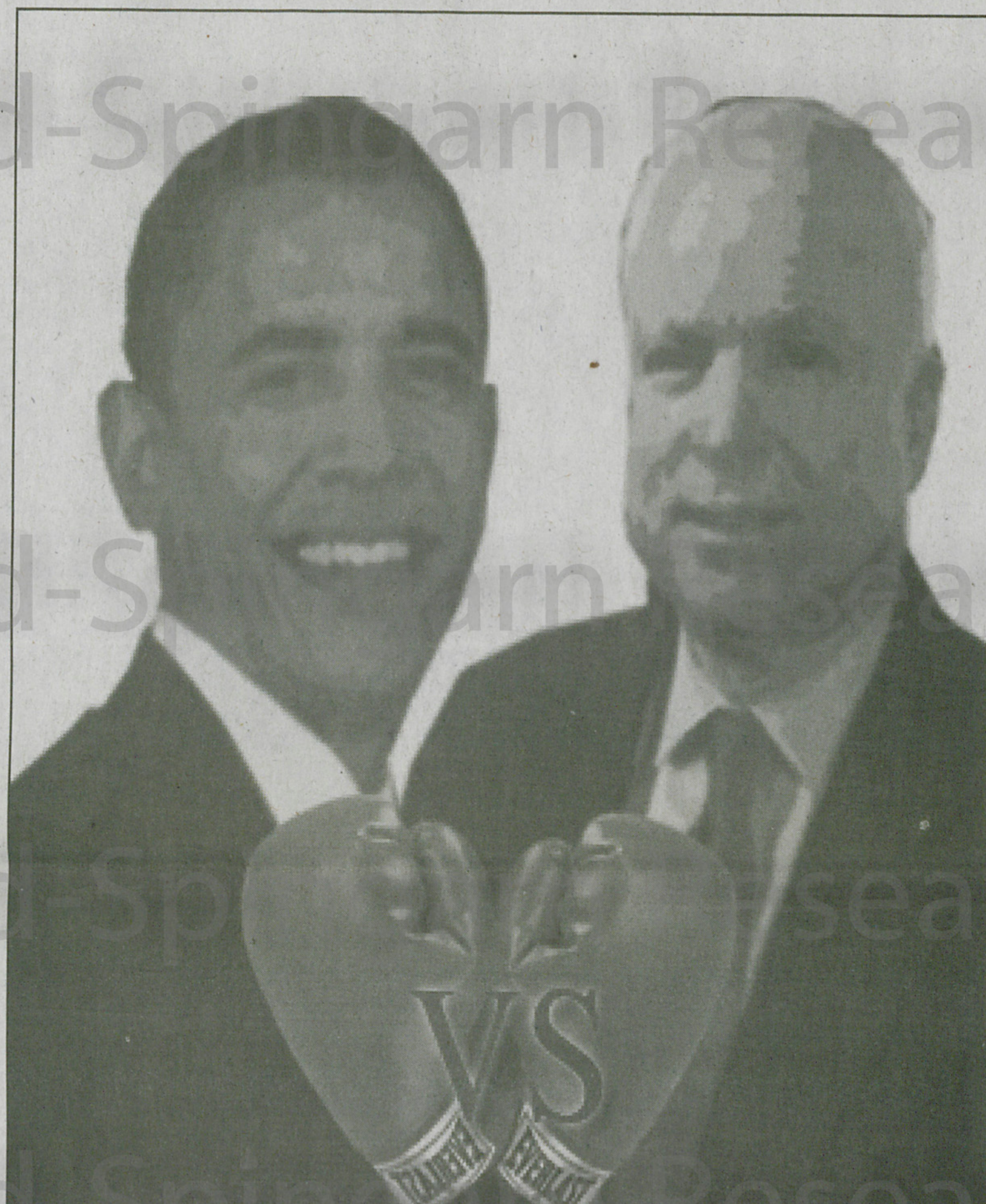
- ★ Obama believes by promoting economic development in Mexico, the flow of illegal immigration can be decreased.
- ★ The senator also supports additional infrastructure and personnel on the border.

Iraq

- ★ Obama believes that we can deploy soldiers out of Iraq one to two brigades per month. This would remove the soldiers, completely, in 16 months time, according to military experts.
- ★ He also wants to implement \$2 billion to aid Iraq refugee families who are displaced in their own countries.

Taxes

- ★ Middle-class families will receive \$1,000 in tax relief.
- ★ The Obama plan will provide three times as much tax relief funding for middle-class families than the McCain plan.



Graphic by Lenzy Belliers

Economy

- ★ To help families pay rising bills, Obama plans on giving American families a \$1,000 emergency energy rebate.
- ★ The Obama-Biden relief plan will entail 25 billion in jobs and growth funds. This will save 1 million jobs in trouble of being cut.

Health Care

- ★ Obama wants to lower the cost of drugs by increasing the use of generic drugs in public programs.
- ★ He also wants to create a Small Business Health Tax Credit. This will help small businesses to be able to provide affordable health care.

Compiled By: Camille Augustin
Editorial Assistant

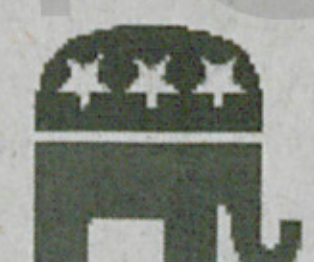
Healthcare

- ★ McCain will improve the quality of healthcare insurance in order to mimic people's needs and to lower prices.
- ★ He also wants to let American people keep their health insurance as they move from job to job.
- ★ McCain also believes that delivering healthcare more efficiently will make it possible for every American to be able to have affordable healthcare coverage.
- ★ Information provided via Obama's and McCain's respective platform Web sites: www.barackobama.com and www.johnmccain.com.

Economy

- ★ McCain wants to ensure that that workers are able to choose retirement plans that best fits their lifestyle
- ★ His comprehensive economic plan will create millions of jobs for Americans.
- ★ He will also lower individual tax rates and enhance international competitiveness to keep jobs in America.

McCAIN'S STAND ON



Education

- ★ McCain wants to expand the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship program, which will save more than 1,900 students from families that have an average income of \$23,000 a year.
- ★ McCain wants to implement \$500 million in federal funds to build new virtual schools.
- ★ Low-income students will be applicable to receive up to \$4,000 to enroll in an online courses, SAT/ACT prep courses, or tutoring services.

Iraq

- ★ McCain wants to continue with the insurgency
- ★ McCain believes that Iraq's political order is changing for the better, due partially to the success of the surge.
- ★ McCain also wants to jumpstart Iraq's economy by using a portion of the Iraqi budget to deal with Iraq's infrastructure projects and restoration of basic services.

Immigration

- ★ McCain wants to set up physical barriers at our borders.
- ★ He also wants to increase available green card numbers to mirror employer and employee demand.
- ★ Qualified American workers to be given fair opportunities to apply for available positions.

Information compiled from barackobama.com and johnmccain.com

ELECTION ISSUE

Apathy Still Present Despite Election Excitement



Enthusiastic voters in Minneapolis encourage registration. Despite the election excitement, some are still unphased and will not participate.

BY OMARI EVANS
Staff Writer

Of the entire population, 44.7 percent of U.S. citizens did not vote in the last presidential election four years ago. That is a little less than half of the population. In areas like Sweden and Germany, voter turnout has reached 90 percent.

In 1994, black South Africans, who for the first time were allowed to vote due to the end of apartheid, had an 86

percent turnout. Yet, in American national elections, citizens usually vote a dismal 40 percent of the time.

There are countless reasons why citizens do not vote. They may be victims of voter suppression, or they may not even be aware there is nation-wide election occurring. But why do knowledgeable voters decide not to vote?

Political Scientist at Howard University, Wilmer Leon, Ph.D., believes the answer lies in the past.

"Over a number of years, people have felt that gov-

ernment has really not been responsive to the needs of the average citizen," Leon said, "and they don't really see any direct results from casting their vote."

According to Leon, voter apathy goes beyond the act of voting.

Leon said, "You have to hold your elected officials accountable and that's where people really drop the ball," he said.

Leon stated that people need to be active by calling their congressman or contributing to campaigns in order for their voices to be heard.

"If you don't make your presence felt, they will take you for granted," he said.

However, Leon believes that voter apathy will be low this election due to its historic nature.

He said that things have gotten so bad in the United States that people have "gotten inspired to express their desires for change."

"Just voting for Barack Obama isn't going to necessarily result in any substantive difference," he said, assuming Obama gets elected. "We're going to have to hold him just as accountable as John McCain."

Initially, sophomore communications major Amari Ice wanted to vote for Obama, but later felt he didn't know enough about either candidate and didn't feel comfortable enough to cast a vote.

"I'm not going to vote because Obama said a couple of things that I didn't like that were 'deal breakers' for me and McCain hasn't said anything I do like," Ice said.

However, there are some students who choose a different method in expressing their political views. Rob Jones is a freshman philosophy major and self-proclaimed anarchist.

"I'm not going to vote because I don't believe any individual is better suited to make decisions for me or anybody else," Jones said.

Jones would only feel the need to vote if someone would die if he didn't or if it was imperative for him to pick the lesser of two evils.

"People shouldn't just vote, they should act," he said.

Election Proves to be Big Business for Advertisers

BY LINSEY ISAACS
Assistant Campus Editor

As the presidential candidates zero in on the final election date next week, millions of dollars are being spent on advertisements.

Sen. Barack Obama alone was named Advertising Age's Marketer of the Year in 2008 last Friday. The title is fitting, as small businesses and various sectors are capitalizing on the historic election this year.

"It would make sense that Obama won the marketer of year. He's everywhere," said sophomore marketing major Rasheed Putten. "Even in dominantly Republican states, you see a lot of Obama paraphernalia and ads. He's all over the media, talk shows and news."

Obama won over top marketing contenders Apple and Nike with 36.1 percent of votes. His opponent, Sen. John McCain, earned 4.5 percent. His victory can be accounted to his engaging social networks and innovative ways to reach out to voters.

"I honestly look at [Obama's] campaign and I look at it as something that we can all learn from as marketers," Angus Macaulay, VP-Rodale marketing solutions, told Advertising Age. "To see what he's done, to be able to create a social network and do it in a way where it's created the tools to let people get engaged very easily. It's very easy for people to participate."

Obama raised over \$150 million for his campaign last month, bypassing public financing problems with large sums of private donations. The money will allow Obama to purchase both national and local advertisement blocks, especially in vital swing states that are necessary for a win. Some markets are advertising seven times as many Obama commercials as McCain.

"Obama has such a huge cash advantage that he is forcing McCain to either buy the top-priced ad inventory that locks in the buy, or pay up because Obama's campaign can challenge every ad buy McCain makes in swing states," independent media consultant Felix Dumbarton said.

McCain spent approximately \$9.4 million on ads last week on key battleground states, moving in on Northern Virginia's suburban areas and the more expensive media



In addition to all of the ad spending, T-shirts and other paraphernalia have been prime sources of income for advertisers in this historical election.

markets of Washington, D.C. in attempt to keep Virginia a red state.

For the final two weeks, Obama budgeted about \$30 million in television ads, leaving tens of millions of dollars to spend on more voter initiation in vulnerable states where McCain has taken a small lead. To reach out to younger voters, Obama is also able to spend relatively less amounts of money on Internet advertising, in comparison to McCain whose biggest group is seniors. Traditionally, it would cost more to reach seniors through television.

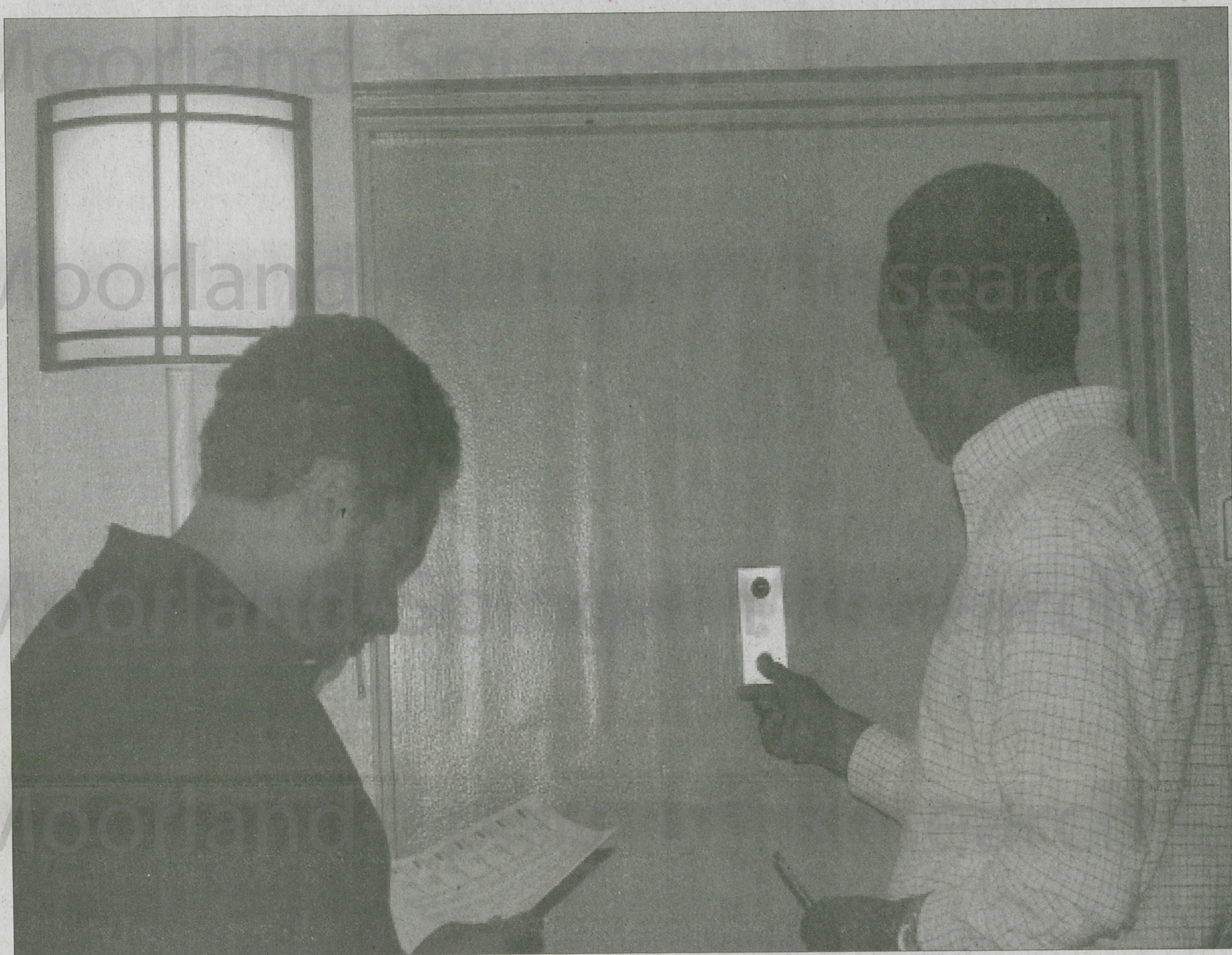
As a result of Obama raising so much money, he has been referred to as "the greatest fundraiser in presidential history," by his campaign manager, Rick Davis. Some

students have the same sentiments, especially since he is the first candidate to place advertisements in online video games.

"It's a good marketing strategy, and it's an even better reminder for our demographic to get out and vote," said senior computer engineering major Demetrius Moore.

"It's very innovative to place ads in games online," Moore said. "And I would definitely have to agree [on Obama being the greatest fundraiser]; I think this is the most popular election. I've never seen so many political ads before. I've only had a chance to vote twice."

ELECTION ISSUE



Ebony Farmer-Online Editor

Keble Huh and Mike Endale are two members of Ethiopians for Obama who are committed to getting the Democratic senator elected on Nov. 4. They go door to door soliciting information and championing in support of Obama.

Ethiopians Go the Extra Mile for Obama

BY EBONI FARMER
Online Editor

The power of the vote means so much to Mike Endale that he co-founded the D.C. chapter of Ethiopians for Obama — and he isn't even eligible to vote during this election.

Endale, who immigrated to the United States eight years ago, said that when Sen. Barack Obama declared his run for presidency in May 2007, he knew it was time for him to apply to become a naturalized citizen. On Nov. 4, he will be voting for Obama, if only in spirit.

"I've always wanted to become a citizen," Endale said. "When Obama announced that he was running for president, it made me really want to participate in the election."

He said a vote for Obama, whose father came to the United States from Kenya to attend college, is a vote for someone who shares a similar immigrant story.

"Seeing Obama in the position that he is in gives hope to the generations of Ethiopians that are here," Endale said. "It lets them know that they can reach for what seems impossible."

In addition to Obama's personal ties to Africa, Endale said the senator's policies on immigration, health care and education are the reasons Ethiopians for Obama is supporting him.

Since 2007, Endale and the 100 members of Ethiopians for Obama have been doing their part to get votes for the candidate.

Ethiopians are the largest of the African immigrants who have come to the capitol area. The United States Ethiopian Embassy estimates that there are nearly 100,000 Ethiopians in the region.

The D.C. chapter of Ethiopians for Obama has targeted the nearly 10,000 Ethiopians in Virginia, a battleground state, which hasn't voted for a Democratic president since 1964.

Endale thinks the Ethiopian vote will be a viable factor in whether Obama or Republican Sen. John McCain wins the swing state. The organization is focusing on two key towns, Frederick and Alexander, with their large

concentration of Ethiopians.

Recently, they gathered outside a Safeway supermarket in Alexandria, Va., preparing to embark on another day of canvassing in the 13th District. Since 2007, the group has been going door to door, morning until night several times during the week and on the weekends, collecting data on voters and sometimes even swaying

"There has never been this much excitement in my community in any election I have been here for," Mekonnen said.

voters on the other side. The group has even registered more than 2,000 people by Virginia's Oct. 6 deadline.

During one of their efforts, Emebet Bekele recalled a man who told her that he wouldn't be "voting for a black man." She managed to keep her composure as she told him that she believed he was wrong and walked away. When the man called her back, they were able to have a constructive conversation. She recently learned that the man became a volunteer for the Obama campaign.

"They have the right to vote for whoever they want," Bekele said, "but they shouldn't be ignorant about it."

Mistella Mekonnen, who immigrated to the United States from Ethiopia 35 years ago, said the presidential race is unlike anything she has ever seen.

"There has never been this much excitement in my community in any election I have been here for," Mekonnen said.

She calls Obama "the beacon of hope" and has been doing all she can to make sure he clinches the victory, including going to churches, visiting homes and making

phone calls to ensure that those who were able to register to vote did by the Oct. 6 deadline. On Nov. 4, she plans to drive people to the polls so they can vote.

Teddy Thikre, co-founder of the D.C. chapter of Ethiopians for Obama, introduced himself after a suspecting resident answered the door. "Hi, my name is Teddy and I am from the Barack Obama campaign. Are you voting for Barack Obama?" he asked.

The trips are not always pleasant, though, and on a single day, the group has been kicked out of a building for soliciting, had the police called on them and one resident demand that they get off his property, for asking questions about who registered voters are voting for.

Thikre said he doesn't mind the conflict because of the greater goal.

"It's definitely worth it," he said.



ELECTION ISSUE

BARACK OBAMA'S HISTORY



Democratic U.S. Senator of Illinois
Running for President
Born in 1961
Attended Occidental College
Graduated From Columbia University (1983)
Political Science Major with International Relations specialization
Graduated From Harvard Law School (1990)
President of Harvard Law Review (1990)
Authored Dreams From My Father (1995)
Illinois State Senator (1997-2004)
Authored The Audacity of Hope
U.S. Senator (2004-Present)

Joe Biden's History

Democratic U.S. Senator of Delaware
Running for Vice President
Graduated University of Delaware (1965)
History and Political Science and Double Major
Syracuse University College of Law (1968)
Attorney (1969)
City council member (1970)
U.S. Senator (1972-Present)

JOHN MCCAIN'S HISTORY



Republican U.S. Senator of Arizona
Running for President
Born in 1936
Graduated from the United States Naval Academy (1958)
Naval Aviator
Prisoner of War (1967-1973)
Graduated from National War College (1973-1974)
U.S. Congressmen (1982-1987)
U.S. Senator (1987-Present)

Sarah Palin's History

Republican Governor of Alaska
Running for Vice President
Hawaii Pacific College (first semester), North Idaho Community College (two semesters), University of Idaho (two semesters), Matanuska-Susitna (one semester), Graduated University of Idaho (1987)
Communications-journalism Major
1984 Placed 3rd in Miss Alaska Pageant
Wasilla, Alaska city council member (1992-1996)
Wasilla, Alaska mayor (1996-2002)
Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission chair member (2003-2004)
Governor of Alaska (2006-Present)

Compiled by Omari Evans, Staff Writer

Voting Absentee First Choice for College Students

BY BRITTANY MILLER
Contributing Writer

With Election Day just around the corner, students are figuring out how to cast a ballot. Many students who are unable to go home to vote will vote absentee.

Absentee ballots are essentially for people who do not expect to be in their polling place on the day of the election. Military service, physical handicap or disabilities and religious beliefs are other

reasons someone would vote by absentee ballot. Some states, such as Oregon, don't require a reason for voting absentee, as all elections are "vote by mail," meaning that all ballots are mailed to registered voters at least two weeks before Election Day.

The procedure for obtaining an absentee ballot differs in every state. The majority of states require an application to obtain the ballot, and once the application is approved by the state, the absentee ballot is mailed out. Every state has deadlines for the application and for the return of the absentee ballot. Most ballots need to be postmarked by Nov. 4, Election Day, in order to be counted. But some states, such as Maryland, accept ballots until Nov. 14 as long as they are postmarked on or before Nov. 4.

Students who live far away and even local students find absentee voting conve-

nient. Sophomore political science major James McDowell knew he would not be able to fly home to Dallas, so he recently applied for an absentee ballot.

"It's more beneficial if I vote from here," McDowell said. "The instructions were fairly simple and I know all the deadlines." Texas, with a Nov. 4 deadline for ab-

sentee ballots, passed a bill in 1997 that allowed astronauts from Texas to vote from space.

Sophomore pre-pharmacy major Jewell Boone also found it simple to use

an absentee ballot. Boone is from Chesapeake, Va., about three hours from the District.

"I'm not going home to vote," she said. "Not because it's too far, but it's just more convenient to vote from here."

Boone has already sent in her application for an absentee ballot and is awaiting the actual ballot. "The actual process of applying wasn't hard, it was just making sure I knew all the deadlines because I had no clue," she said. "The deadline for a completed absentee ballot is the day of the election in Virginia."

Due to some state rules, some students won't be able to vote absentee. Freshman public relations major Emily Gause, has to return home to Ann Arbor, Mich. to vote. Michigan requires first-time voters who did

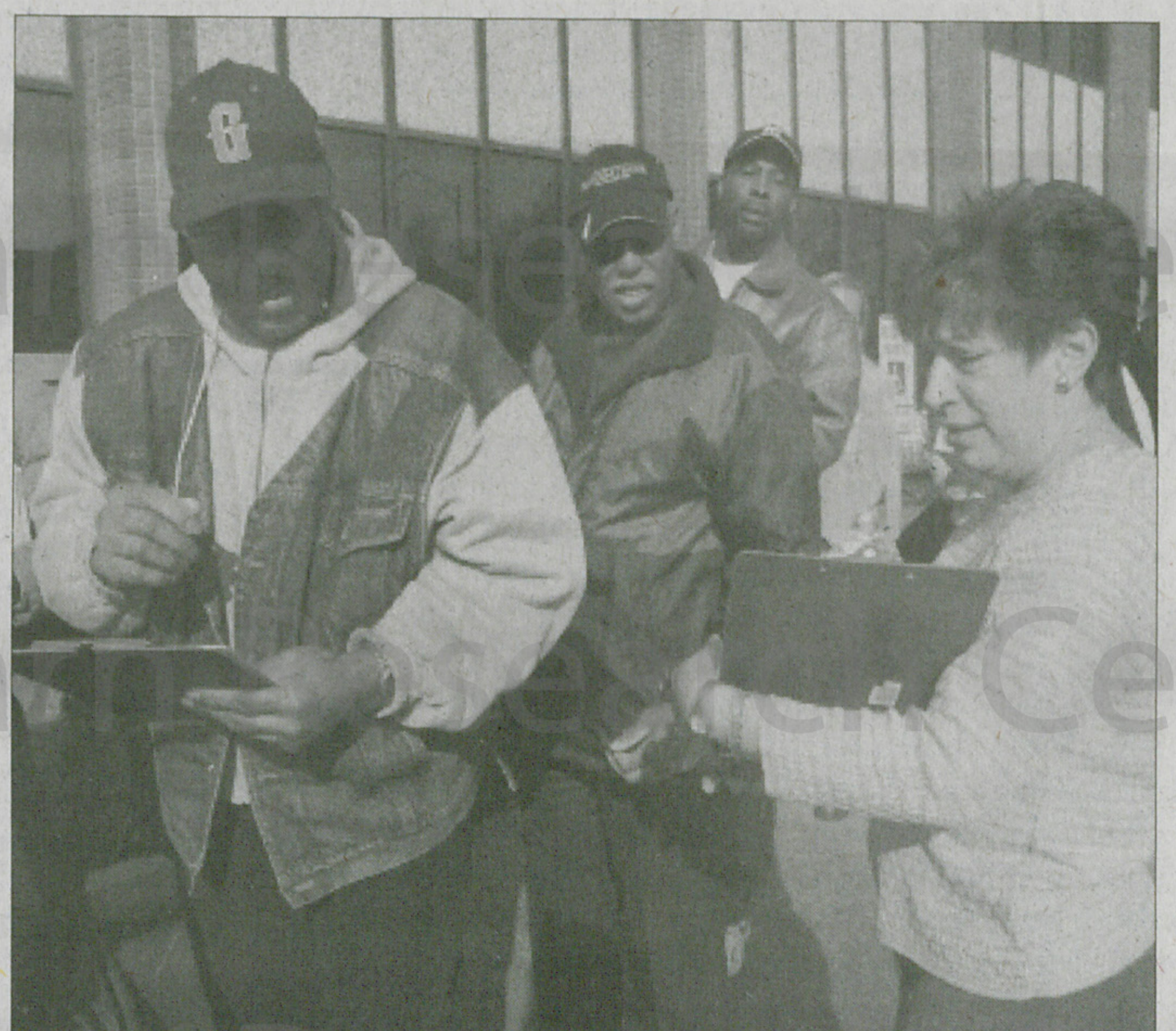


Photo Courtesy of Mark Cardew (MCT)

Voters are lined up in Akron, Ohio to register for absentee ballots — a common practice among college students.

not register in person, to vote in person or apply for their absentee ballot in person. "I wasn't informed that you had to register in person so I'm going home to vote," said Gause. Although Gause will be missing classes, she's still enthusiastic about voting. "It's a lot of money I could be saving," she admitted, but it's a good cause."

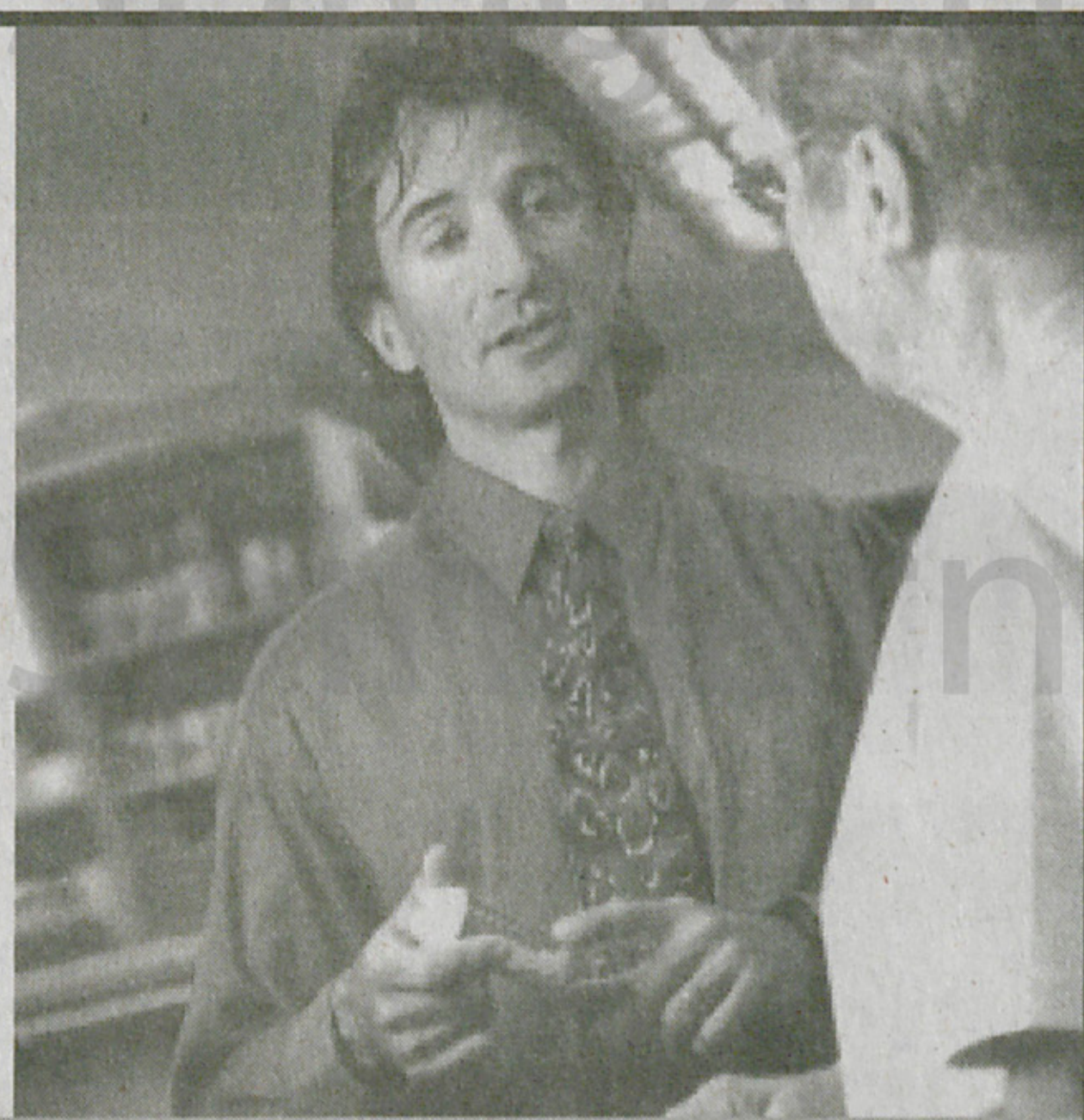
Not all students trust the absentee voting process. Shantel Hubbard, a sophomore biology major from Long Island, N.Y., is registered to vote but is not sure if she will be applying for an absentee ballot. Hubbard is skeptical about the reliability of voting

absentee. "You're just sending your ballot in the mail. You don't really know where the ballot is going or if it's really counted," Hubbard said. "If I don't go home, I probably won't end up voting."

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization aimed at increasing understanding and improving government systems have pushed Elections Officials to reassure voters that their absentee ballots will be counted by explaining the ballot counting process and informing voters of the time frame that their ballots will be counted.

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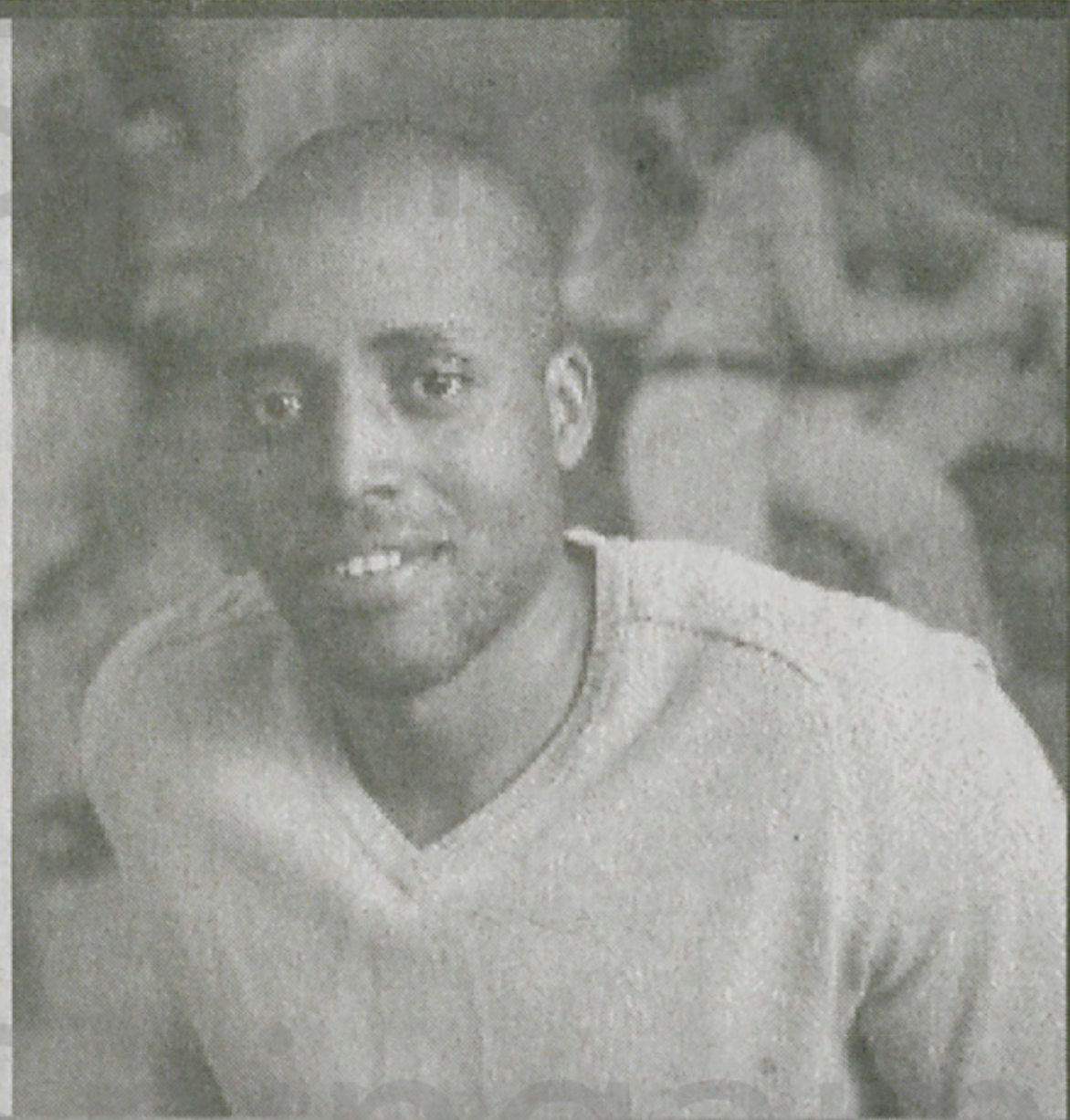


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Congress, Bush Says Have Confidence

President says, 'These are no ordinary circumstances,' laissez-faire impossible

BY JASON CLARK
Contributing Writer

Stocks are plummeting; jobs are disappearing and money is tight. And who is on the way to save the day? Batman, Superman or another fictional comic book character who could end the credit crisis or find a well-paying job for everyone?

No. The American people have to put their trust into a federal government, which just lost their footing in restoring, making and keeping the nation's global economic sovereignty.

The Federal Reserve recently passed a bill into law with hopes of saving the country's economy from dwindling further into chaos and bringing back confidence into the stock markets. This bill put \$700 billion into the hands of the U.S. Department of Treasury to buy a stake in banks and bad debt in our markets. Normally, the government has a practice of laissez-faire when it comes to the economy, which is more of a hands-off, laid-back approach.

President Bush addressed the nation on Oct. 18 via radio asking for support of the bill with respect to the fact that Americans are concerned about the economic stability of the United States and the respective decisions that Bush and his administration are making.

"As a strong believer in free markets, I would oppose such mea-

sures under ordinary circumstances," Bush said, "but these are no ordinary circumstances. Had the government not acted, the hole in our financial system would have grown larger, families and businesses would have had an even tougher time getting loans and ultimately the government would have been forced to respond with even more drastic and costly measures later on."

Kendra Hardy, a sophomore print journalism major, is one of those citizens who isn't really sure of how the plan will work and how much trust she should give the government right now.

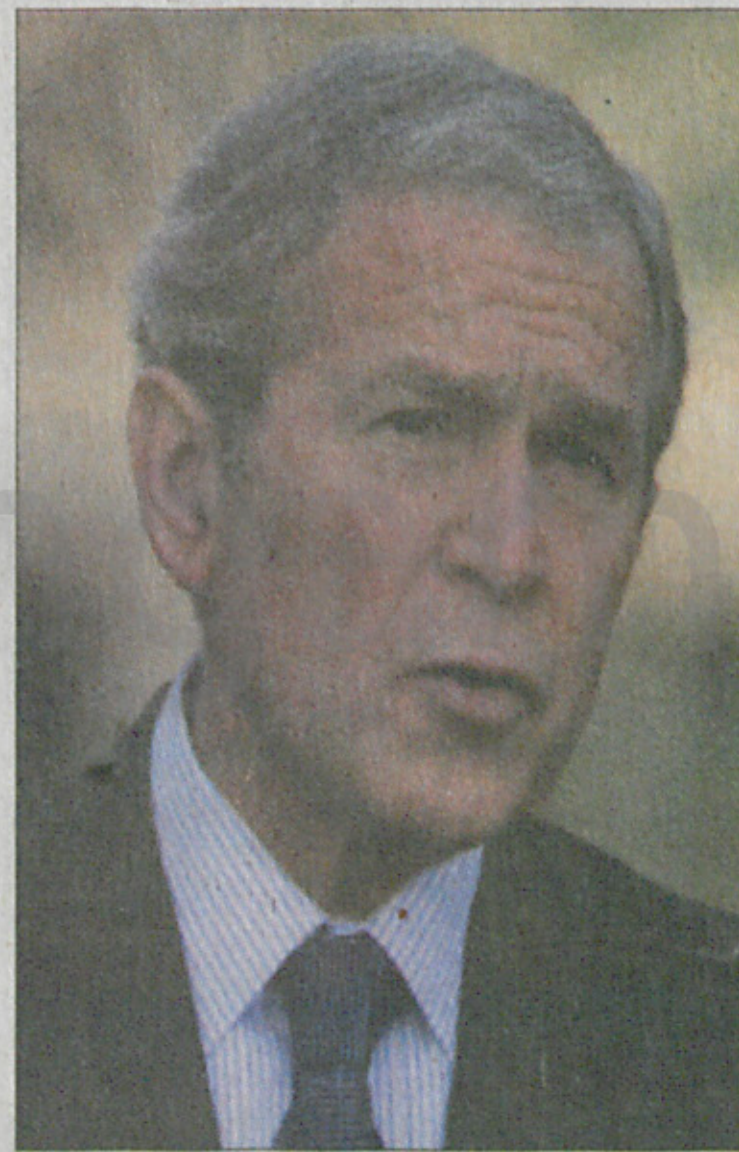
"I feel like someone else always has the power over my greater economic future," Hardy said. "I can't even think of or picture that amount of money."

William Spriggs, chair of the Howard University economics department, said he understands why there is some doubt towards the Bush administration and the situation.

"Two weeks back, Bush was saying things were fine and now you have this," Spriggs said. "So, he's not being consistent and that affects his credibility."

Spriggs said that the bill and the proposed reasons for the crisis have changed and some people are not sure of much right now. At this point in time, he summed up that everyone has to get past all that.

Bush urged that confidence would be restored. He said also that the government's plan is limited in size, scope and duration; the government's involvement would not



Chuck Kennedy (MCT)

President George Bush makes a statement about his financial working group.

be as big as people might think it is.

The bill has been a major topic on Capitol Hill. It even had presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain wanting to suspend campaigning and even cancel the first debate between he and Democratic candidate Barack Obama, so they could work on a solution to the problem.

After Bush, Sen. Barney

Frank (D. - Mass.) issued a statement calling out for more support.

"It is my belief that, unless we take action along the lines of the legislation we adopted, the impact on virtually everyone in our country will be much worse, including those who are blameless," he wrote.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) have each asked for support from citizens, and for more federal legislation that would target specific economic sectors in their own statements.

Dodd targeted four areas: homeownership preservation, stopping predatory lending, credit card reform and bankruptcy reform.

In her release, Pelosi asked for cooperation from both parties. "At a time when Americans are struggling with rising costs and weakened retirement security, and a growing number of workers are losing their jobs, I call on President Bush and Congressional Republicans to work with Democrats in Congress to enact a targeted, timely, and fiscally responsible economic recovery and job creation package," the statement read.

According to Spriggs the American people also have the duty to keep the government responsible in these times.

"We need to monitor what the government does with the authority they now have," Spriggs said.

THE STUDENT PARENT SERIES

Step Two: Making It Work for Life

BY CHRISTINA L. BURTON
Business & Technology Editor

Sometimes parenthood doesn't get in the way of school. Sometimes class work falls through because of a student's own doing.

Keona Jones-McCalla, an undergraduate student at Drexel University, is a soon-to-be master's degree holder in teaching at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland and is a mother of a 5-year-old.

She said she failed a statistics course all by herself.

"I was supposed to graduate a quarter early," McCalla, 27, said. "Drexel is on a quarter system. I struggled with statistics so I had to do another quarter or two because it was a requirement. Not at all because of Kayla; I failed those classes because of my own effort."

At times, being a parent doesn't even interfere with the child's life. Savannah Daniels, a 22-year-old senior nursing major from Austin, Texas, made sure her daughter, Jazmyne, 7, could do all of the things Daniels was not able to do when she was a little girl. Jazmyne participates in numerous activities such as dance lessons, cheerleading at school and take acting classes and lessons for as much as \$2,000.

"I am one of few [student-parents] who has it easy because Jazmyne has full support from her father, his family and my family," Daniels said.

Jazmyne will live in Texas with Daniels' mother until the day she grad-

uates in May 2009. As far as work is concerned, Daniels worked both before and after the birth of Jazmyne.

"I had to work," she said. "No options." She said she received pay increases as she went from employment at Target to a gas station and then to General Motors. "I only knew to work and be with my daughter," she said. "I still work today for the government, part-time."

According to the 2006 U.S. Census Bureau data, women between ages 15 and 29 years old had over 3.97 million babies. About 2.22 million of them were in the labor force during pregnancy and the first year of parenthood.

Both women are part of a seemingly prevalent shift of the acceptance of young motherhood and fatherhood, especially among African-American people. One in every three women in the United States has an abortion by age 45, according to Planned Parenthood. However, the number of abortions has decreased by over a million since 2001, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a sexual health research organization.

The rate of abortions is still highest among African Americans, at 69 percent said Guttmacher, but the rate of black births is rising. The latest data by the Census Bureau says that in



Photo Courtesy of Savannah Daniels

Daniels had daughter Jazmyne, 7, in 2001. She is currently enrolled in Airforce ROTC at Howard.

2005, 633,000 black babies were born, up from 616,000 in 2004 and 600,000 in 2003. No recent data was available.

"I didn't plan to have her," McCalla said of Kayla. "Actually, my college sweetheart and I had just broken up from being together for five years before, and at the time I was never so glad to have gotten rid of him."

The next day, she found out she was pregnant and on that same day, she made a plan to do right by her and her future child.

"Nothing would change," McCalla said. "I would graduate early, return to my position as an auditor for the inspector general's office of the Department of Labor, find a suitable day care, strap her on my back and keep it moving."

Daniels, like McCalla, wasn't panicked either. She said she didn't want to have Jazmyne, but when she arrived on Nov. 20, 2001, she realized she had a great opportunity. Much of her leisure money went to household needs, like milk for \$50 a week and pampers costing about \$15 each week. Day care set her back about \$100 more each week.

"I am very happy. I got pregnant at 14 years old and I have a beautiful daughter who is so talented," Daniels said. "It's hard and frustrating at times

because I am not with her for most of the year, but I know this will all be worth it in the long run."

Tough times did occur for both mothers, however. In her freshman year, Daniels was in danger of being purged because she owed \$2,500 to Howard University. She thought she was on her way back to Austin.

"I was going home and I probably wanted to," she said. "However, God came in and led the way for me. I'm still here today."

McCalla said the difficulty came after college when Kayla was already born.

"The best time is coming soon," she said. "My household has become a two-income household, and now we make well over six figures," McCalla said. "But, it took some careful planning and strategizing to make it to this point."

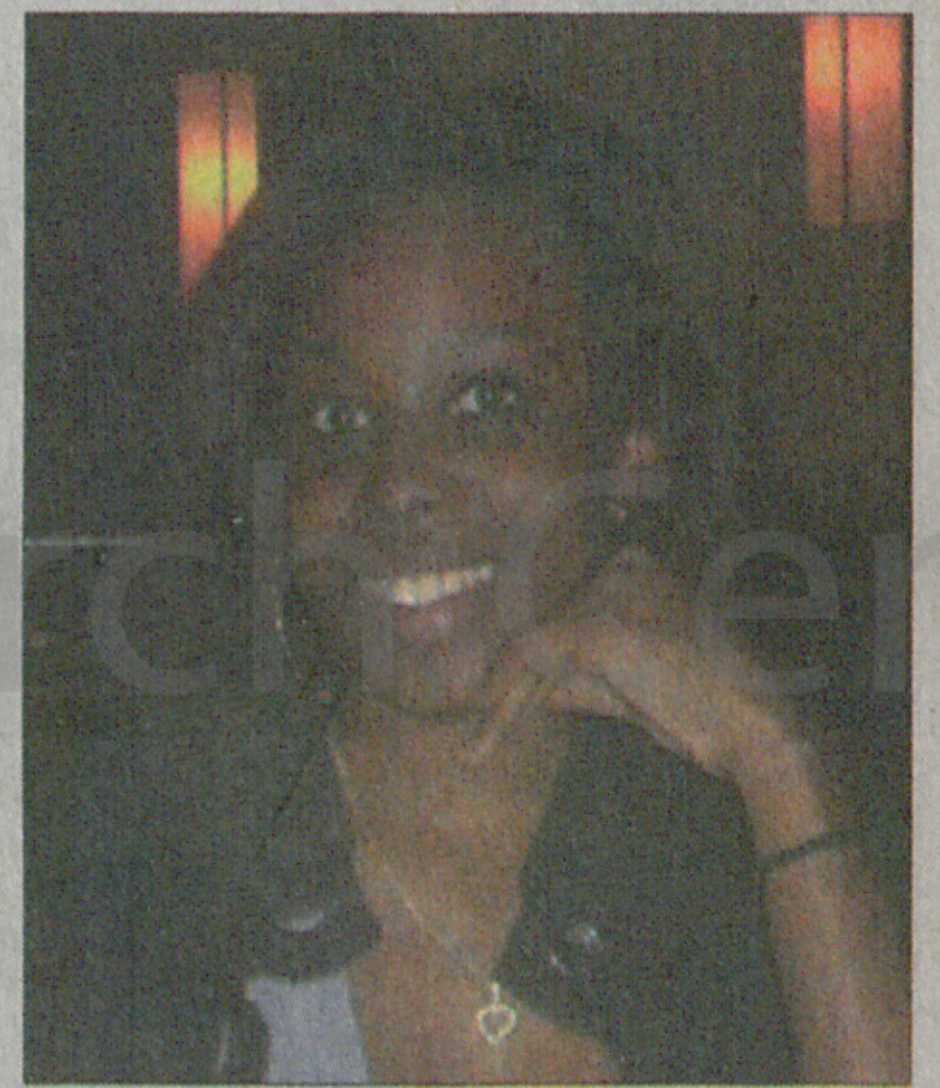
McCalla got married in May 2008 to Howard University alumnus Brandon McCalla, 26. She hopes to finish her Ph.D. by 2011, while her husband maintains his position in the Army as a commissioned officer.

"Financially, there wasn't anything that I could have done differently," McCalla assured.

She does warn that the job of student parenthood involves much self-sacrifice, saying that it's not for the child's wants, but more for the child's needs.

Daniels said that her best financial situation came once she got into the Air Force.

"Financial aid had already paid for the semester, so the Air Force money went straight to me," she said. "I will retire as a full bird colonel in the U.S. Air Force with Jazmyne right by my side."



John, the Uninsured

BY LINSEY ISAACS
Assistant Campus Editor

Let's take a break from the direct economic issues facing America today. And by that, I mean the credit crisis coupled with Wall Street crooks.

I keep hearing about Joe the Plumber, Tito the builder, Jack the hunter and a myriad of other irrelevant metaphors to prove a false point. Well, what about John the uninsured?

I was watching the movie "John Q" this weekend with tearful eyes, a broken heart and a pen and pad. Yes, I was taking notes.

I bet if that movie was based in any way, shape or form off of a true story, it would make such a greater impact on society. For those who haven't seen "John Q," it's a compelling story of how a father, with little to no health insurance, goes through such great lengths in order to get his son's name on a list to get a heart transplant. He holds the ER hostage, demanding the hospital go through with the procedure. (Oh, and just a tidbit, it stars Denzel!)

It's sad that his story is not that much different from other Americans who have no insurance, and end up in life or death situations in which they are forced to choose the latter simply because they are too poor.

Since 2000, the average cost of family coverage in the workplace increased over 78 percent to \$12,078 last year, while average wages and premiums rose only 1 percent and 5 percent, respectively. About 45 million Americans are still uninsured.

You know times are rough when your parents prohibit you from participating in certain strenuous activities, not only because they're terrified of you getting hurt, but when they constantly declare, "We don't have any insurance."

This is perhaps one of the most important issues the candidates are facing in this election. According to McCain's plan, employers will make approximately \$12,000 worth of insurance available to employees, who won't have to pay any extra in taxes regardless of their tax bracket.

Obama's plan will decrease existing insurance almost \$2,500 per year and create a new affordable health insurance option for the uninsured while mandating child health care.

Obama's proposed health plan will also cost \$1.6 trillion over 10 years, after establishing a National Health Insurance Exchange along with a Small Business Health Tax Credit that will allow individuals and small businesses to purchase affordable health care. Meanwhile, McCain's will cost an estimated \$1.3 trillion over 10 years, according to the Tax Policy Center reported by the Associated Press.

There is no mandate for healthcare under this plan, but McCain will offer a \$2,500 refundable tax credit for individuals and \$5,000 for families.

Personally, I'm counting down the days until something goes terribly wrong with my health because I haven't had proper annual checkups and physicals.

The underlying issue is me having no health insurance, and I'm wondering if both plans are even feasible.

Like everyone else, I'm trying to live a long and healthy life. So I'm voting to secure not just my finances and my future, but my health as well. I urge the public to do the same.

But boy, if things don't change, this national health insurance deficit will be enough to make me pull a "John Q."

"Don't got around saying that the world owes you something; the world doesn't owe you anything. It was here first."

- Mark Twain, author



Photo Courtesy of Keona Jones-McCalla

Keona Jones-McCalla kisses her daughter, Kayla, 5, while husband, Brandon McCalla, a 2003 Howard alumnus, looks on. The McCallas were married in May.



TRUE LIFE: It's All About the Candy

BY ALEESA MANN
Life & Style Editor

It's true — when you're young, your Halloween is only as good as the candy you get.

Sure, you can buy candy at any time of the year. But, the idea that there is a holiday in which people spend their hard earned money on candy they give away to strangers...in theory, it's pretty unbelievable.

I've given up trick-or-treating, because apparently I'm "too old," whatever that means. (Seriously, who is too old for candy?) So this year I can only remember fondly the late, cold nights I've spent running around my old neighborhoods hoarding pounds of candy.

There's nothing like the excitement of getting home and dumping your bags of candy on the floor to find out what goodies your neighbors handed out.

Good neighbors give out bite size Kit Kats, Jolly Ranchers and Twizzlers while the cool ones give out full-sized candy bars like Snickers and Babe Ruth's. And the cheapskates, well...they ruin everything.

There's nothing more depressing than slugging around heavy bags of candy all night in 40 degree weather, only to get home and realize that 90 percent of it is going straight to the trash.

How dare anyone, and I mean anyone, in all their sincerity, deceive trick-or-treaters by handing out Bits-o-Honey, Smarties or jawbreakers, just to name a few.

First of all, I have never had a bit-o-honey that wasn't as hard as a rock. I can't tell you why I ever felt compelled to try more than two pieces of this candy because it was always the same. Let's hope I don't chip my tooth on this crap and end up with a huge dentist bill because someone was too cheap to buy a pack of Reeses cups.

Secondly, Smarties look and taste like chalk. When's the last time you heard anyone say, "Wow this chalk looks so good I want to eat it?" Never. So why would you buy it?

Then, there's jawbreakers. Okay, the only reason anyone ever eats a jawbreaker is to find out if they will really break their jaw. After second grade, everyone knows the answer to this question so it's a moot point. No, they're not horrible candies. But that's because they taste like nothing. If you're fine with spending your money on a bag of air balls, be my guest. You're just wasting your money and my time.

And I don't care how "festive" it may be, no kid goes trick-or-treating for candy corn. Not one. I can go to my grandma's house if that's what I really want.

Just because you can buy it in bulk doesn't mean you should.

Don't even think about handing out healthy snacks like granola bars, dried fruit or raisins. You mean I risked my life knocking on stranger's doors in the middle of the night so you could remind me how bad candy is for me? Thanks, but no thanks. That's like serving rice cakes at a birthday party. Nobody wants that.

Rule of thumb: If the candy you're dishing out is the same as what they stuff pinatas with, you probably shouldn't be handing it out. As a matter of fact, why don't you save your money by not buying anything at all.

Hip-Hop's Fat Boys Return With Slimmer Waistlines

BY GRACE SALVANT
Contributing Writer

Do the names Prince Markie Dee, Kool Rock-Ski and Buff Love sound familiar? They should to the true '80s babies, who recognize these names collectively as the Fat Boys.

The rap group, whose name was not just a clever gimmick, but rather a description of its members, will be making a comeback into mainstream hip-hop culture this year.

According to a press release, the Fat Boys have signed a contract for a comeback album, a reunion tour and a reality television series.

"They were about good music, when hip-hop was fun," said Kai Lawson, a junior telecommunications management major.

Lawson was a fan of the group's feel-good music.

"It was designed to get people dancing, spittin'," she said. "It was pure entertainment."

Unfortunately, there will only be two members of the original three Fat Boys re-emerging. Buff Love, also known as 'the human beat box,' passed away of a heart attack in 1995.

The primary purpose of the new reality show series will essentially be to look for a new Fat Boy member. However, some skeptics believe that the group will not be the same.

"I don't know if their music is going to sound right," said Bobby Patton, a junior telecommunications major. "And I really don't want to see them without Buff."

Current manager of the Fat Boys, Louis Gregory, reassured fans that although there will be some changes, the Fat Boys will still encompass their original style and Buff Love will never be forgotten.

"The Fat Boys have made records without Prince Markie Dee," Gregory said. "This time they will be making records without Buff. [Buff's] spirit will live on; his legacy will live in their music."

Gregory said, "His family is involved with all of the projects and with

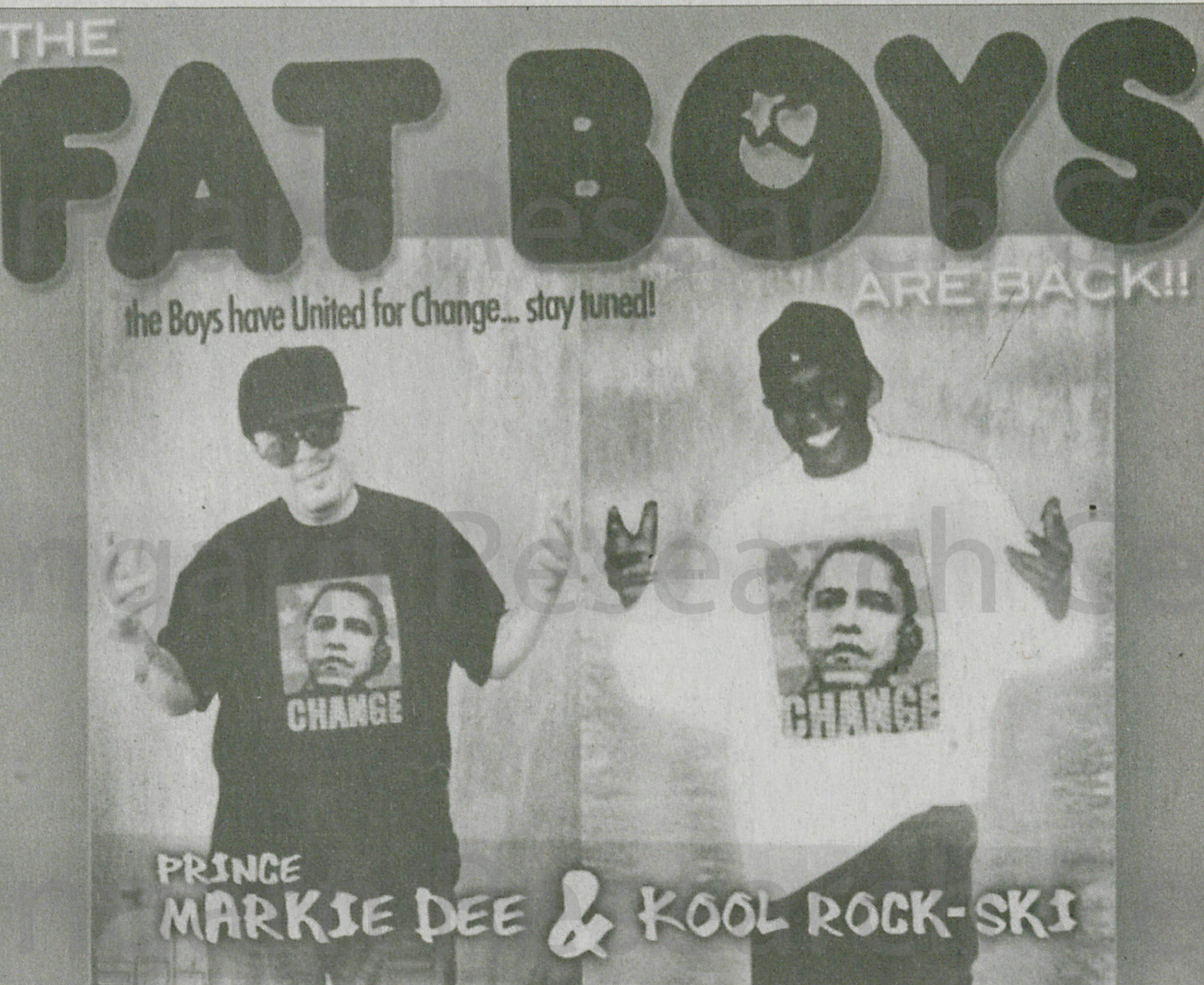


Photo Courtesy of Uncle Louie Management

Prince Markie Dee and Kool Rock-Ski of the Fat Boys are taking back the spotlight this year with a new image, tour and reality series.

both of the boys."

After nearly 20 years away from the hip-hop scene, fans wonder why the Fat Boys have decided to make a comeback.

According to Gregory, however, the Boys are coming back for the money. "There is an underground beat boxing movement going on, especially in Europe," he said. "It would be a great opportunity."

The Fat Boys will tentatively be opening up for The New Kids on the Block in 2009 on their World Wide Tour.

According to Gregory, they have been getting many offers from different

record labels but are "waiting on the right label to offer them the right deal."

Altogether, the Fat Boys have seemingly paved the way for other heavyset rappers such as Heavy D, Big Pun and others.

Patton agrees.

"They made fat cool," he said. "They weren't like any other rappers back then."

Contrary to their name, the new Fat Boys are no longer fat. Both Prince Markie Dee and Kool Rock-Ski have lost a substantial amount of weight. According to Gregory, the passing of Buff was an eye

opener to everybody.

With their new looks and new attitudes, there will be much more expected of the new and improved Fat Boys.

"The Fat Boys will bring old fans back to their youth and youthful fans will be given a chance to experience what legends are made of, first hand," Gregory said.

Patton, an old fan, said he will have to wait to see if the Fat Boys do indeed live up to their legacy.

"Then I'll be able make my judgments," he said.

Health Concerns Arise Over Public Restroom Use



Steven M. Falk

It has been found that the first stalls in both the men's and female's restrooms are usually the most clean. Many people do not like to use public restrooms because they are known to be unsanitary.

BY ASHELEE GERALD
Contributing Writer

Dozens of people will use a public restroom in one day, and although these facilities are meant for cleanliness, after using them, many visitors may leave feeling more dirty than they were when they entered.

While some bathroom goers choose to squat or use excessive amounts of seat

covers to protect themselves from bacteria when using public stalls, quite a few prefer not to use public restrooms at all.

"I don't really use public restrooms," said Michele Gee, a junior broadcast journalism major. "I hear they're not the cleanest places."

Though not all public restrooms are the fanciest of the fancy, using a public restroom does not have to result in taking an "L" for a "P." There are many public

restrooms that serve their purposes while still upholding some standards of public decency.

Studies have been done and, on average, the first stall is the cleanest," said Peter Olfe, a co-founder of Web site MizPee.com.

"That goes for men and women," Olfe said.

MizPee.com was launched in 2008 and serves as a guide for locating clean restrooms in several cities across America, including Washington, D.C. Web users can refer to the MizPee Web site and find out if, and where, there is a clean public restroom.

Restrooms are also rated on cleanliness by the general public on a scale of one to five, with

five being the highest.

Olfe was inspired to create the Web service after visiting the restrooms of a public library in San Francisco.

"They turned out to be so filthy that I had a headache within just two minutes," Olfe said. "I thought to myself, 'I wish I knew where there was a publicly accessible toilet that I could use.'"

The first bathroom stall is usually the cleanest.

Use paper towels when touching restroom fixtures.

In order to accommodate individuals on the go, MizPee is also accessible through mobile phones, helping individuals find last minute locations for restroom use.

"Even if I knew the restroom was clean, I would still be cautious," said Geraldine Augustin, a sophomore international business major.

"I don't know who was in there before me," Augustin said. "From what I've heard, you can get an STD from sitting on the toilet seat after somebody else who has one [STD]."

However, contracting an STD from a toilet seat is unlikely, according to WebMD official, Rod Moser, PA, Ph.D.

"The human body is well-adapted to fighting off these ongoing exposures," Moser said.

While not all public restrooms will be bacteria- and germ-free, there are ways of ensuring a clean and safe visit.

Do not forget to leave with washed hands and do not touch public restroom fixtures with bare hands — it is usually best to use a paper towel.

Washington, D.C. Public Restroom Ratings

according to Mizpee.com

Jurys Washington Hotel
1500 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.
Rating: 5/5

Hamilton Hotel - Crowne Plaza
1001 14th Street, N.W.
Rating: 4/5

Union Station
50 Massachusetts Avenue
Rating: 1/5

Hotel Palomar
2121 P Street, N.W.
Rating: 5/5

The Office of Residence Life Presents:

The Haunted Hilltop 2008

The Black Ball

8:00 pm to 12:00 am

All students must have an HUID
and wear a costume to gain entry

Undergraduate Library Rooftop
Friday, October 31st, 2008

The Washington Post & Howard University Presents

"In My Lifetime - a Panel Discussion"

One Vote Counts, We Want to Hear from You

Casting the ballot...Two generations...Two campaigns...One election

November 4, 2008 will mark another historic moment in American political history. Either the first Black president or female vice president will be elected. Many voters never imagined they'd see either happen in their lifetimes. Join us for a night of entertainment and a panel discussion about the historical importance and other topics related to the 2008 presidential election.

October 29, 2008

8:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

The Washington Post Community Room
1150 15th Street, N.W.

Special Guest Host, Will J. Hall of WPGO
Channel 95.5

Moderator, Janette Dates, Dean of the John H.
Johnson School of Communications

Panelists will include:

Dr. Ivory Toldson, Professor Howard University

Dr. Lynn Jennings, Congressional Black Caucus Member

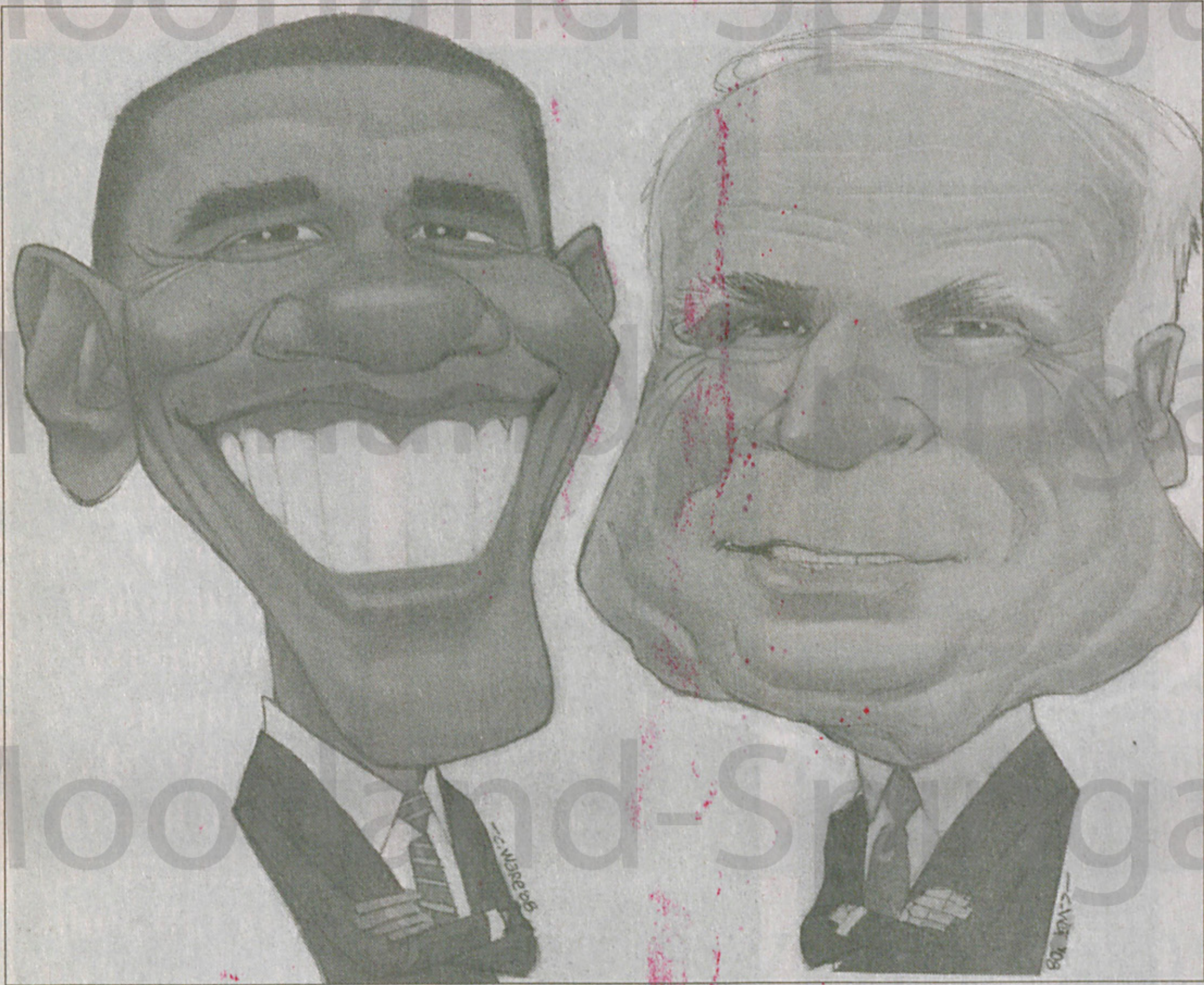
Ashley Barbera, President of College Republican National Committee

Matthew S. Manning, Howard University Student

Cory L. Scott, Howard University Student

There will also be a viewing of democratic candidate Barack Obama's prime time address to the nation at 8:00 p.m.

This is a FREE event, and refreshments will be served
For more information, contact inmylifetime08@gmail.com



Chris Ware-Caroonist (MCT)

Voters Should Be Educated, Aware of Issues Despite Biases

The historic and controversial issues that have characterized the 2008 presidential election have caused certain minority demographics to turn out at the polls during the primaries in record numbers.

Although the majority of students on Howard's campus are in support of Barack Obama, it is important that every voter is aware and educated and not just racially biased.

Women, African Americans and young people especially have special interests in this election and became target audiences for candidates during the onset of the race to the White House.

In addition to specifically addressing these demographics, the candidates have the task of appealing to the entire nation in an attempt to rescue our economy and relationship with foreign countries.

Since the majority African Americans are Obama supporters, blacks are oftentimes critical when a black person professes

support of GOP candidate John McCain or even Obama's Primary contender Hillary Clinton.

Instead of purchasing Obama paraphernalia to keep up with the latest fashion trends or

Our View:
Voters should know their candidates — not just who they are — but what they believe in.

joining Obama advocacy groups because he's black, take time to research his stances on key issues and his plans for the country.

Although the platform that McCain believes to be best for the country closely resembles Bush's, take time to review his stances as well.

Political party identification polls often show that self-proclaimed Democrats actually subconsciously identify with Republican views and vice versa.

The mainstream media also

plays an important role in voter awareness and not always in a good way.

The commentary that occurs after major debates and speeches highlights the main points of what was said during the debates and how those points could possibly impact the general public.

Nonetheless, the commentary is just that, commentary. It is the opinion of individuals who are speaking from their own knowledge of a subject. As a voter, it is your duty to reinforce your perception of a candidate by doing your own research. Everything sounds correct when it comes from a person who speaks with confidence. Arm yourself with the tools to challenge ignorant confidence.

Although most of the deadlines for absentee voting have passed, those who have yet to vote should visit the Web sites of both candidates and ensure that they are voting based on an educated and unbiased decision.

Perspective

Howard Has Disappointed Me Again!

Waking up one week later after meeting my English 002 teacher to find he had been replaced by this young and vibrant lady was the worst feeling ever. He was the one I expected great things from and now is the one I'm hearing great things about.

The unprofessional part is he walked by our class numerous times as she introduced herself and he never entered to say a word about him not being our professor any longer. Now I have a teacher that balances us and school for herself.

Howard might call a person like this a multitasker. Taking Intro to Psychology this semester, I have learned there is no such thing and seeing my teacher's performance, I realize Howard made a bad move on my chess board.

I, on the other hand, go to class on days when my new teacher doesn't show up or she meets up with pieces from various books...then Friday expects me to have a 4 to 5 page essay. My anger with her is when I chose to address this new teacher about

her format on teaching, she was in denial. She tells me that I "should meet up with her if I need some help." My problem isn't that I need some help, but the problem at this point is that I feel I'm not learning anything. Why must I stay after class and learn what I should have learned in the 50 minutes of me sitting down in a spacious classroom?

I feel Howard is to blame for putting such an inexperienced breed in a classroom with freshmen who can't be given any direction but only readings to stimulate the mind. Readings are great and I love to read great pieces from time to time, but I think the way to format an essay is more important than a teacher's favorite pieces from a book.

Howard did you not care when you let this young woman walk into our class with no structure and no foundation to help the transitioning of your freshmen?

The honesty behind it is I feel as if I've been robbed of this learning that I should be receiving

and not a rushed process of essays which my teacher can't find minutes to go over before she's handing out the next one. This is why I find Howard to be a disappointment! They care more about my paid tuition and R.S.V.P. points, than my potential to maybe become a better writer.

It has been established that I'll probably fail this course or leave with my "just-right" format for some English 003 teacher to expand on. Isn't that right Howard University who's become a name built by hard workers?

I wish for one minute Howard would stop dwelling on those legacy's accomplishments in which they earned and put those efforts into the students who continue to attend this university. And these students don't attend because they want to be like Debbie Allen; they attend because they heard this is where the best education lies.

- Jarondakie Patrick, freshman, print journalism major

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

Each row, each column and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1-9 exactly once.

			7			8		
5		8				3		
9	7			5			2	
		3	9	7			8	
		7				2		
	5			6	4	9		
	3			2			9	8
		1				7		6
		9			5			

Do you want to write for The Hilltop?

Come to our next budget meeting!

Sunday @ 6 p.m. in the West Towers

CORRECTIONS: The story "Bison Almost Taste Victory Against North Carolina Aggies" was not attributed to a writer. Ed Hill, Sports Information Director, wrote it. Also, in the "Student Hustle: I am an Elementary School Teacher" story by Kierra Jones that ran Thursday in the Business & Technology section Omoro Jacobs-Okhomina's last name was misspelled.

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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Any inquiries for advertisements or Hilltopics should be directed to The Hilltop Business Office.

THE HILLTOP

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Now in its 84th year, *The Hilltop* is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of 7,000, *The Hilltop* is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial & Perspectives page are the views of the The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent Howard University or its administration.

The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.

The Hilltop prints everyday. The first 20 words are \$10 and .25 for each additional word.

All classifieds must be submitted and paid for 5 business days in advance.

We accept payment in the form of cashier's checks, money orders, and company checks. **NO CASH**

Any questions? Contact The Hilltop Business Office at 202 806 4749 or email us at hilltopbusiness@gmail.com.

The Ladies of Alpha Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Present... Politically: "Pan-Africanism: Am I My Sister's Keeper?" Tuesday 8:00pm Blackburn Center

Do you want to go to Law School? Don't know how to get there? 2nd Annual Mid-Atlantic Pre-Law Conference Wednesday, October 29th Blackburn Center 9am-4pm

Don't Let Your Legacy Be Unseen Place your senior ad in the BISON YEARBOOK today!!! Come to g-06 in Blackburn

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SENIOR/ UNDERGRADUATE PORTRAITS Monday, November 3- Monday, November 24 10AM- 5PM in the Music Listening Room of Blackburn Center Senior Portraits are \$20

Undergraduate Portraits are FREE of charge

Chicago People's Union Presents: Whats Really Good? True Life: Drew Hall Edition Monday, October 27 @ 7pm-8pm Located in Drew Hall Lounge True Life: Carver Hall Edition Monday, October 27 @ 8pm-9pm Located in Carver Hall Lounge True Life: Annex-Quad Edition Tuesday, October 28 @ 7-9 Location: The Annex Seminar Room

It's About That Time.. Bison Year Book Organizational Pictures November 1- November 2 Please bring \$80 Service Request, Cash, or Money Order to G-06 and Sign Up Today. Don't be Left Out!!!

Please Join Howard University Office of Student Activities and the National Medical Association HIV/ Aids Information Day Thursday, October 30, 2008 Howard University Blackburn Center Ballroom 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Meeting material and refreshments will be provided and HIV testing will be available.

To register for the Conference, Contact Norkia Baker 202-806-7000 NorBaker@howard.edu Assistant Director Office of Student Activities or Cheryl Dukes 202-347-1895 Ext 264 edukes@nmanet.org

For Rent SEVERAL ROOMS for rent as low as \$599/ month. Several Exquisite Rooms in Custom Renovated Home. Close to Campus. Available NOW! Walking/ Bus/ Metro Train accessible. Contact: 202-725-3525, superiorservices@comcast.net http://washingtondc.craigslist.org/docroo/883907718.html

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The Ladies of Company G-8-5, The National Society of Pershing Angels Sorority Inc. Howard University College Republicans and The Howard University College Democrats would like to Invite you to "Lets Talk Politics" Thursday October 30, 2008 DGH 133 7-9pm

Got Questions? "You're a Republican?!" Wednesday, October 29, 2008 Blackburn 148 7:00 pm. Guests are invited to ask questions of the HU College Republicans and local Republican politicians.

UGSA SKI TRIP! Cabin Fever is almost here! (discount with early bird special beginning in November!)

In partnership with Howard University, Office of the Vice Provost for Student Affairs

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www.evawhu.com

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